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The Marker Lamp

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OY just out of Chama
by Marc LaChey

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VACANT

President's Message

by Chuck Lind, MMR
Chucklind46@gmail.com

To say this is a strange year would be an understatement. Most of us model railroaders are social people. That's why we join clubs, attend meetings and conventions and for many of us attend operating sessions. So, for the record my Division has had to cancel meetings, and I was planning on heading to operating sessions in Oklahoma and Arkansas and both were canceled. The NMRA canceled their convention I believe for the first time in history. The Narrow Gauge Convention was going to celebrate their 40th Anniversary in St. Louis, and it was canceled.

If you are like me you are looking to see and visit folks so up pops ZOOM. While not the same as in person meetings it does give you the chance to see other folks and talk to them about what they are doing. So, until we can all get together again attend a ZOOM meeting, I know that Divisions 1, 3, 4, and 8 are holding meeting using this platform as well as the South Texas Social folks in the San Antonio area.

We did have our yearly Board meeting in June. It was held through Zoom and notices were sent out for those that wanted to attend using Zoom. New officers were installed and the budget was passed for the coming year. Since the NMRA came up with a new youth policy, where no one under the age of 18 can attend an NMRA event without their parent or guardian also attending. This policy was reviewed for the Board members. With the new youth policy, the Board also took up at what age someone could serve as an elected officer on the Board. To serve as an Elected Officer the person must be 21 years of age. The Board did make it possible for someone at least 18 to serve on a committee as an apprentice. After a little discussion anyone can serve as an apprentice if they want to learn about the workings of the committee.

Our next Lone Star Region Convention will be a joint convention with the folks in the Mid-Continent Region. It will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma with Ken Ehlers and Marc LaChey our co-chairs. I visited the facility, an Embassy Suites, with Ken and Marc and it is a very nice easy to get to location. They offer a free breakfast and a happy hour in the evening. Marc and Ken are working out some of the details as I write this so be looking in your email for information. They are planning on operating sessions, clinics, layout tours and of course a contest room. The contest room should have a bumper crop on models since everyone was under a shelter in place order. Hopefully you used that time to catch up on your modeling.

With the cancelation of the NMRA Convention folks still wanted to experience the learning they receive from the many clinics presented at the convention. With this need NMRAx was born. Format is a 45-minute clinic was questions after. If you still want to see some of these great clinics visit the NMRA Facebook page and enjoy. The LSR has been very well represented in NMRAx with several of our members stepping up to help.

On a sad note Leo Palitti lost his battle with cancer. Leo and his wife Lorrie have built a fabulous HO model railroad with many award-winning structures. I have visited the railroad several times and always see something I missed on a previous visit. I attended his funeral and the one thing that everyone mentioned was that when you met Leo he was your friend for life. I will miss that friendly smile and handshake and viewing his models in the contest room. Rest in peace.

Fifty-one GC&SF Depots make National Register of Historic Places

by Riley Triggs
rileytriggs@gmail.com
ponyrr.blogspot.com
modelrailroaddesign.blogspot.com

Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway depot in Alvin, Texas

Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway depot in Fort Worth, Texas

A new mutli-property nomination was added to the National Register of Historic Places last year for a group of Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Depots encompassing the growth of the system between 1873 and 1965.

At its peak in 1955, the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway system operated over 1,800 miles of track which was the second largest system in Texas. Fifty-one of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway Depots were included in this multi-property nomination contributing to National Register guidelines. These buildings greatly contribute to the economic, social, and architectural legacy of the US railway industry.

The Alvin Depot, located in Brazoria County, was also added as an individual nomination that was also a part of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Network. It was listed because it is an outstanding example of a "County-Seat" passenger depot. The building was completed in 1910.

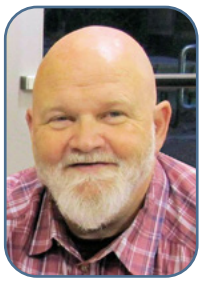
I couldn't locate the listing application on the National Park Service website - apparently it hasn't been digitized yet. I'm curious to know the 51 remaining depots that are included.

Riley

Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway depot in Weatherford, Texas

Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway depot in Fort Worth, Texas

Up the Tracks Events Calendar



By Bill Dryden
NMRA & LSR Life Member

DISCLAIMER in light of COVID-19

I have visited each of the web sites provided herein and the only cancellation I found was the one noted. However, you should (re)verify any event you are interested in attending before traveling to it.

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

Lone Star Region 2021 Annual Convention
Joint Regional with Mid-Content Region
Tulsa, OK!
(Dates TBD)
Come all!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 2 -– Metairie, LA
LSR Division 2 meets on Mondays between July 30th to October 1st at the Crescent City Model Railroad Club, 601 N. Lester Ave in Metairie, LA 70003 at 6:30 PM for Modular Monday. For more information contact Ken Mason at series9parts@cox.net.

LSR Division 3 - Trinity River Division – Allen
The Trinity River Division meets on the Third Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Donna Orr at donnalorrtx@gmail.com.

LSR Division 4 – Cen-Tex Division – Austin
The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the Second Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see http://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR Division 8 - Texas Gulf Division – Houston
The Texas Gulf Division presents hands-on-clinics every second Saturday of each month at the Bayland Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. The clinic times are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All are welcome. To be added to the Division 8 mailing list contact Jim Lemmond at jimlem@comcast.net. The Division 8 web site is http://texasgulfdivision.org/

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin
The Austin Model Railway Society is a HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Riley Triggs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers

HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White – rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum

Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street, in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot; New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Plano

The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and for regular meetings on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to check on our progress in setting up operations. Located in Colin Creek Mall, Plano, TX, outside JC Penney's on the lower level. For more information: http://texasnorthern.org/

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills

The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmrc.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

September

5th Toy Train & Swap Meet. (Presented by Lone Star Division/Train Collectors Association). Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Collin College Central Park Campus Conference Center, 2200 W. University Drive, McKinney, TX. More information: contact Jon Dell'Antonio @ (972) 540-5067.

5th – 6th Austin Area Train Show 2020. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Adults $7, Children 12 and under FREE with adult. Williamson County Expo Center, 5350 Bill Pickett Trail, Taylor, TX. More information: info@austintrainshow.org or https://austintrainshow.org/.

5th – 6th Clark Gardens Opening Weekend Model Train Show. Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $9, over 65 $7, Children 4-12 $5, 3 and under FREE. 567 Maddux Road, Weatherford, TX. More information: https://www.clarkgardens.org/.

12th Toy Train & Swap Meet. (Presented by Lone Star Division Gulf Coast Chapter/Train Collectors Association). Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. NASA Parkway, Seabrook, TX. More information: www.tca-gulfcoastchapter.org.

19th – 20th 38th Annual Temple Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Adults $7, $1 discount for seniors and active duty military and dependents with ID, 12 and under Free. Frank Mayborn Center, 3303 N. 3rd Street, Temple, TX. More information: www.centramod.rr.com.

October

31st – Nov. 1st 12th Annual Fall Train Show. (Sponsored by New Braunfels Railroad Museum). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8 (14 & older), Child $2 (3-13 years old). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: http://newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/nbrr/train-shows/.

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Whose track goes there?

You tell me whose layout this big photo is from, and I give the first person to email me the correct answer at rrrduino@huntatrophy.com a campfire lighting Arduino next time we meet!

Do you live in central Texas?

Whether you're new to model railroading,
want a large layout but don't have the room,
or just want to hang out with friends...

Come join us!

We're an HO scale modular club with regular meetings in the Austin area.
Members participate in many ways, from software to scenery to operations.

AUSTIN MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY
EST AMRS 2017

Check out all our website at **austinrailway.org** for more information and how to join.
You can also reach us at **info@austinrailway.com** or **(512) 836-5275**.

Clearance check

By Riley Triggs

2021 Tulsa Union Convention

By Marc LaChey and Ken Ehlers, MMR, Convention Co-Chairs

The Lone Star Region and the Mid-Continent Region of the NMRA are coming together for the first time for a joint regional convention. The convention is planned for June 17-20, 2021 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Regional Convention Chair, Marc LaChey of the LSR and Ken Ehlers, MMR, member of the Indian Nation Division of MCoR will serve as Co-Chairmen of the convention. Many from LSR Division 8 will remember Ken as an outstanding modeler of the Rio Grande Southern. Ken was a member of Division 8 before retiring to Tulsa.

Tulsa has gained a strong reputation as a "hot spot" for operations over the past several years. Convention attendees can look forward to opportunities to both operate and visit more than a dozen layouts in Tulsa during the convention. Of course, Ken Ehler's RGS layout will be a highlight along with many other layouts. Marc and Ken are also working toward having a local Tulsa N scale modular layout set up in the lobby of the convention hotel.

One of the reasons that we are excited to provide a joint convention with the Mid-Continent Region is that it presents an opportunity for LSR members to attend clinics given by MCoR members. For example, Mark Juett, Manager, NMRA DCC Working Group and Pulse of DCC columnist is scheduled to present clinics on "Setting up for Operations" and "Getting Started in JRMI Car Forwarding". Another well-known Tulsa modeler, Lind Wickersham, will present a clinic on "Building and Detailing Structures". Not to be outdone, LSR member, Gert "Speed" Mueller will present a hands-on clinic involving use of Auduinos. And with some encouragement, Dallas area modeler, Lloyd Keyser, MMR will be presenting along with Al Boos, MMR from San Antonio. These are just a sampling of the clinics that will be available to convention attendees.

And of course, what would an NMRA convention be without a Celebration of Models, Photos & Crafts (a/k/a the Contest Room). Attendees are encouraged to bring models, photos & crafts for entry in the contest room. Models entered in the Contest room will be judged using Achievement Program criteria. And there will be an opportunity for attendees to have models judged for the Achievement Program without being entered in the Convention Contest if preferred. Regardless, now is the time to start working on models, photos or crafts for the convention. See the convention website for details!

Least we forget, Non-Rail attendees may plan on a

visit to the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, along with several other activities.

Arrangements have been made with the Embassy Suites, 3332 South 79th East Ave. in Tulsa to host the convention. Attendees who book early can take advantage of a rate of $106.00 for a King room and $111.00 for a double room. And as it customary, the Embassy provides a free, made-to-order breakfast and a complimentary evening reception. And the hotel offers plenty of places for attendees to sit and visit with old friends and make new friends. Check out the convention website for the Convention Code and telephone number to use when making your reservation.

The web site for the convention is

www.2021TulsaUnion.com.

We encourage you to check out the website as updates and new information is posted on the site. ML

...RRRduino...

by Speed

Article and photos by Mike Barrett

This quarter we received an off-site submission for an article that RRRduino could not say no to. So, thank you Mike for bringing us this real world example of an Arduino in action!

Arduino Car Uncouplers

My Taylor, Bastrop, & Houston layout is a loop-to-loop configuration that uses four interchange tracks at each end to exchange traffic with the outside world. In a sense, these tracks are my staging yards. On the Taylor end, the only place to reliably couple and uncouple cars is at the yard entry. Unfortunately, this area is not accessible from the aisle, so some method of remote uncoupling is required. An Arduino controlling four Kadee uncoupling electromagnets has proven to be a reliable solution. (See Figure 1)

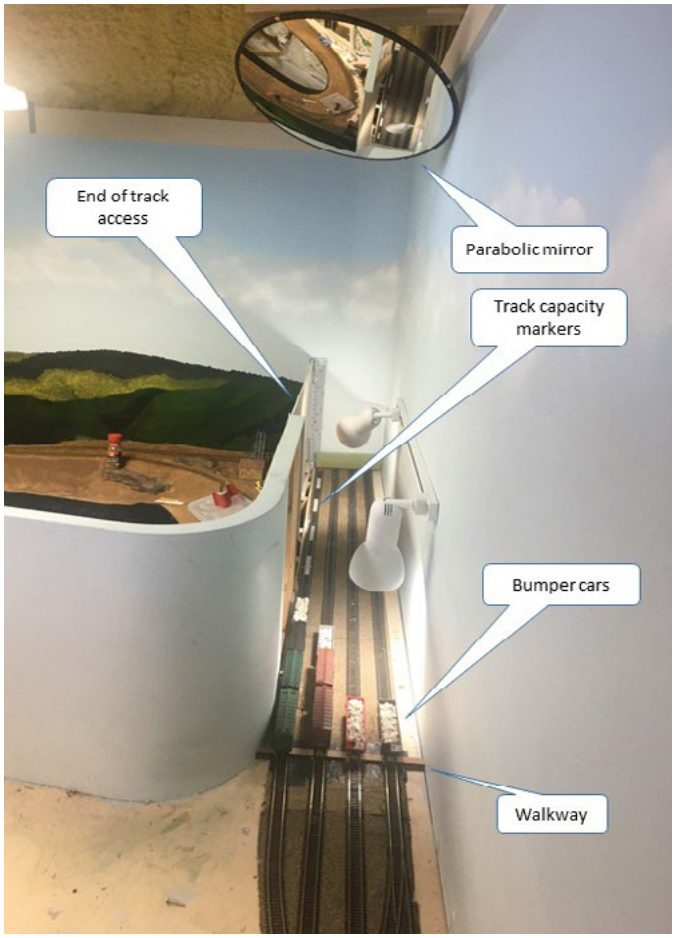


Figure 1. Taylor interchange tracks

Controlling the locomotive and electromagnets while keeping track of one's switch list and throttle can be quite daunting. A second operator, or at least a third hand, would come in handy to control just the uncoupling magnets. An Arduino is just the help the operator needs.

A switcher picks-up and sets-out cars on the interchange tracks. "Bumper cars" are used to provide resistance when cars are switched on these tracks. There is one bumper car on each track, and that car should never leave that track. The bumper cars are quite heavy, and may even have some of the wheels restricted from turning. They have distinctive markings that remind the operator not to take bumper cars past the uncoupler magnets.

The bumper cars are also filled with limestone boulders to make the end of the cut of cars more visible in the parabolic mirror. There are also pieces of reflective tape on one of the tracks to delineate how much empty track is left.

Electromagnets control uncoupling on each track. The four electromagnets are lined up side-by-side at the yard entry. There is a boardwalk, or walkway, across the tracks such as a switchman might use to get to the couplers. (See Figure 1) This walkway provides a visual cue to the operator so they can line the couplers up with the electromagnets. Experience has shown that uncoupling can be successful over a wide range. (See Figure 2)

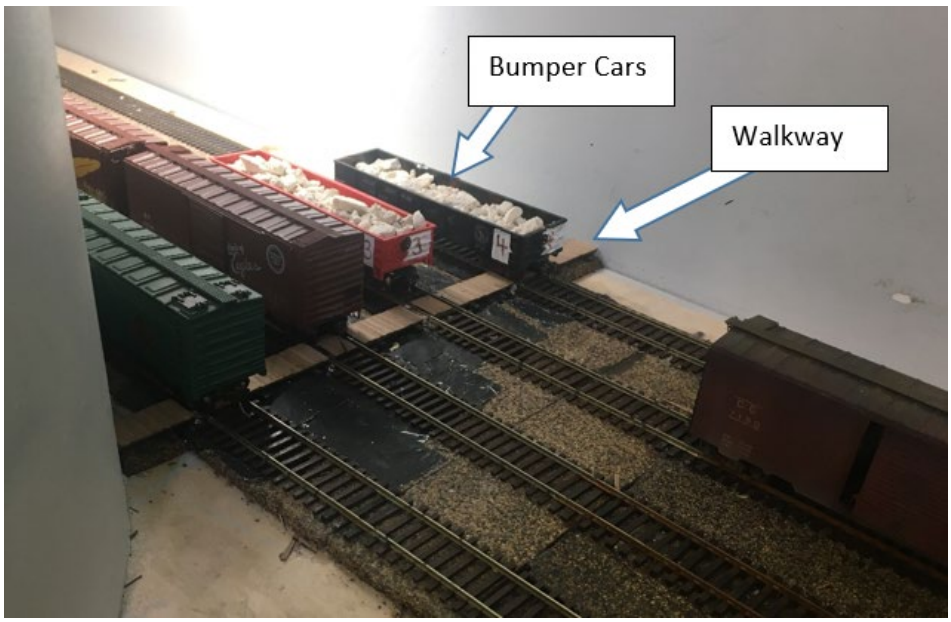


Figure 2. Walkway locates coils

Pushbuttons provide signals to an Arduino that powers the electromagnets through relays. The electromagnets require considerable power – 1.7 amps at 16 volts. Therefore, one doesn't want to leave the magnets powered any longer than necessary. They may overheat and melt the wire insulation. The electromagnets are powered off by either pressing a push button for a different electromagnet, pressing the CANCEL pushbutton, or timing out after 5 seconds.

The sequence is as follows:

- Position the couplers over the boardwalk, leaving the couplers slack
- Press the electromagnet "ON" pushbutton
- Check the locomotive direction and pull away

- Cancel the electromagnet power
- Note: If the electromagnet power is not turned off within 5 seconds, it is turned off automatically
- Note: Blue LED's are buried in the boardwalk and lighted while the electromagnet is energized
- Note: Blue LED's on the switch panel are lighted while the electromagnet is energized

The overall hook-up of the components is shown below (Figure 3):

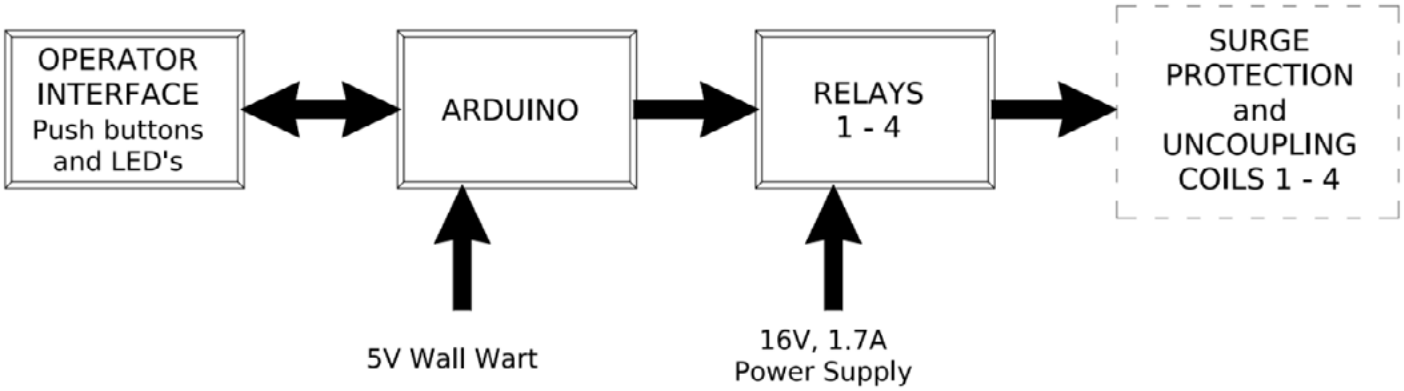


Figure 3. Overall configuration of the elements

Operator Interface

The Operator Interface Panel is shown below (Figure 4). The yellow LED's show which of the four tracks is lined up into the yard. A different track can be selected by pressing another one of the Track Selection Buttons. The uncoupler is selected by pressing one of the Uncoupling Selection Buttons.

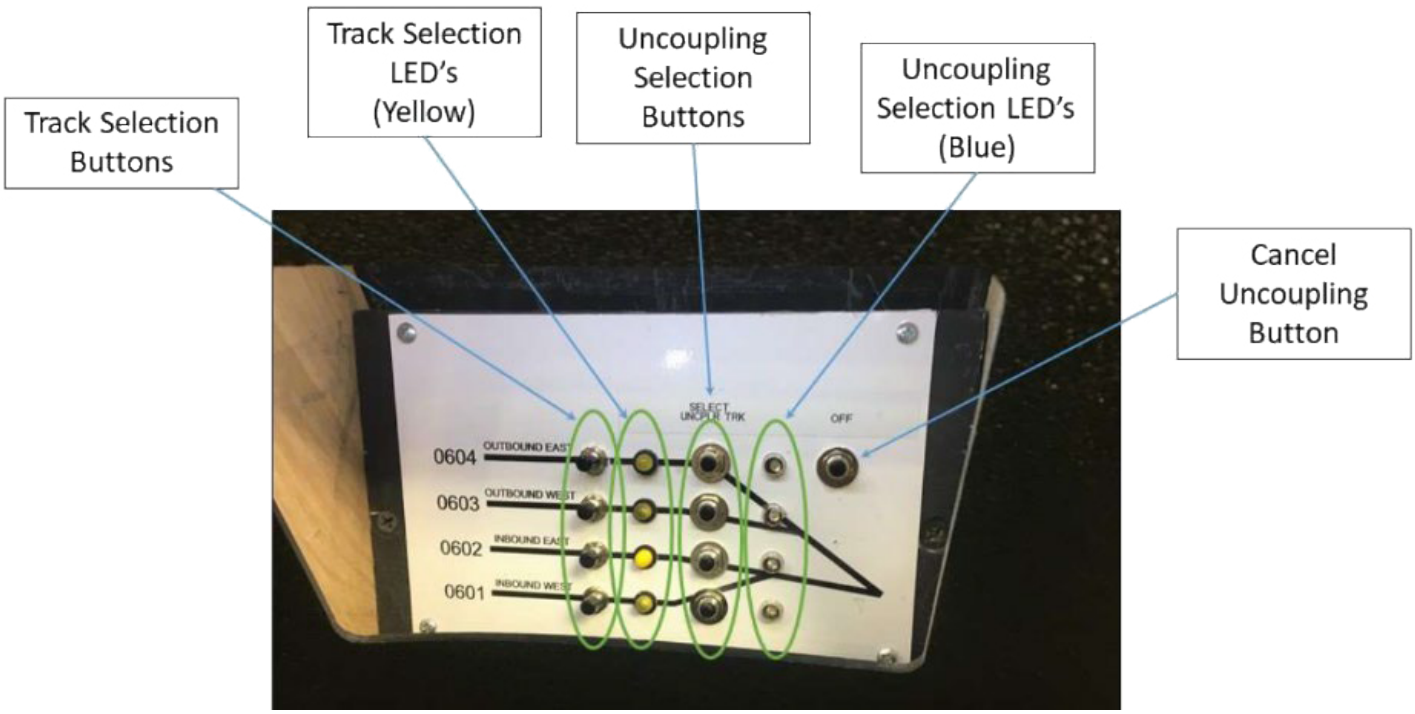


Figure 4. Operator interface panel

Figure 5. Selecting uncoupler on Track 603

Figure 6. Blue LED indicates uncoupler is energized

Selecting the uncoupler under track 0603 is shown above (Figure 5). The blue LED on the panel lights up and the blue LED in the walkway lights up (Figure 6). Both blue LED's stay lit as long as the uncoupler coil is energized. The track selection LED (the yellow LED) stays lit until another track is selected.

Arduino and Shield

The Arduino used in this application is the Elegoo Mega2560, shown in Figure 7. Figure 8 shows the Electronics-Salon Screw Terminal Block. The array of pins on the bottom of the terminal block plugs directly into the array of sockets on the

top of the 2560. The terminal block costs more than the 2560, but it is well worth it. The jumper pins that go into breadboarding an application are very easy to accidentally knock out of place. This can be infuriating. The terminal block provides a secure connection for the wires. Figure 9 shows the 2560 attached to the terminal block.

Figure 7. Elegoo MEga2560

Figure 8. Electronics-Salon Screw Terminal Block

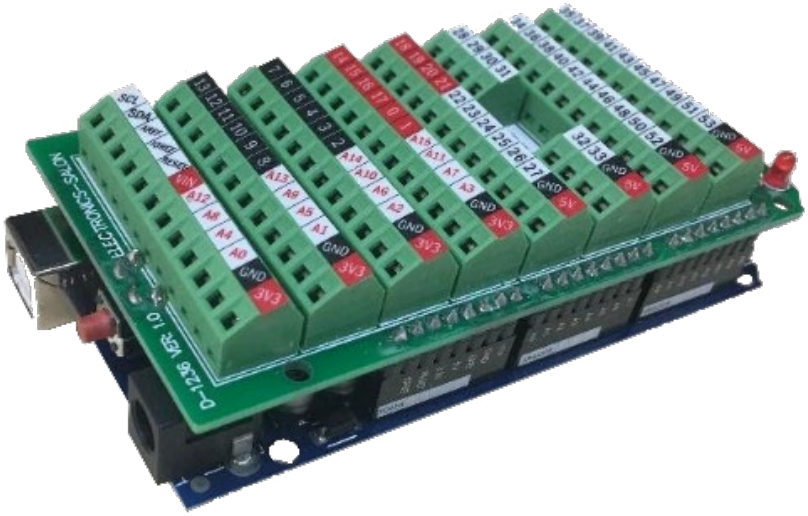


Figure 9. Arduino and screw terminal block together

I found several other gadgets that made this job much easier. The Sun Founder RAB Holder (see Figure 10) provides a secure place to mount the Arduino. There are also several "wall-warts" now on the market that make the Arduino power connection convenient.

Figure 10. Sun Founder RAB Holder

The Arduino sketch (or code), with plenty of comments, is shown at the end of the article.

Relays

The relays are supplied as shown in Figure 11. Two are on a board with optocoupler inputs, and wired as shown in Figure 12. You can also buy boards containing 1, 4, 8 or 16 relays.

Figure 11. Two relays on a circuit board

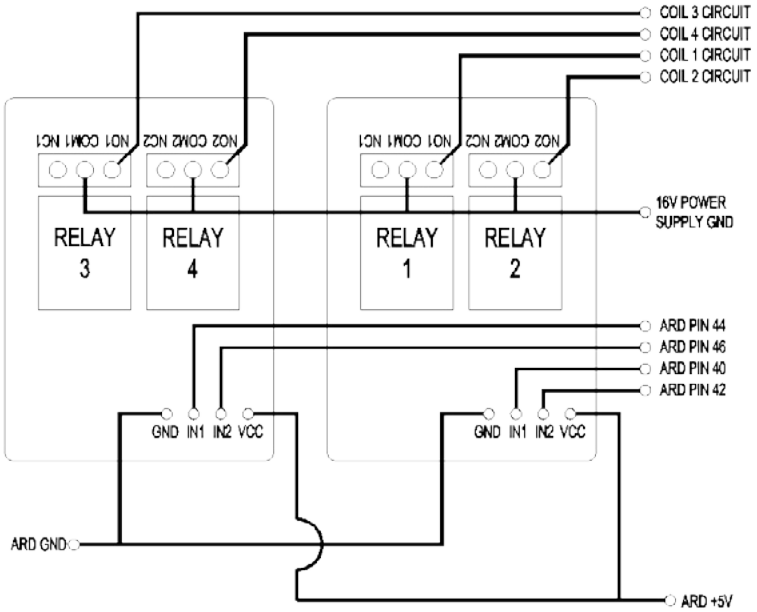


Figure 12. Relays connected to coils at the top and Arduino at the bottom

Surge protection and uncoupling coils

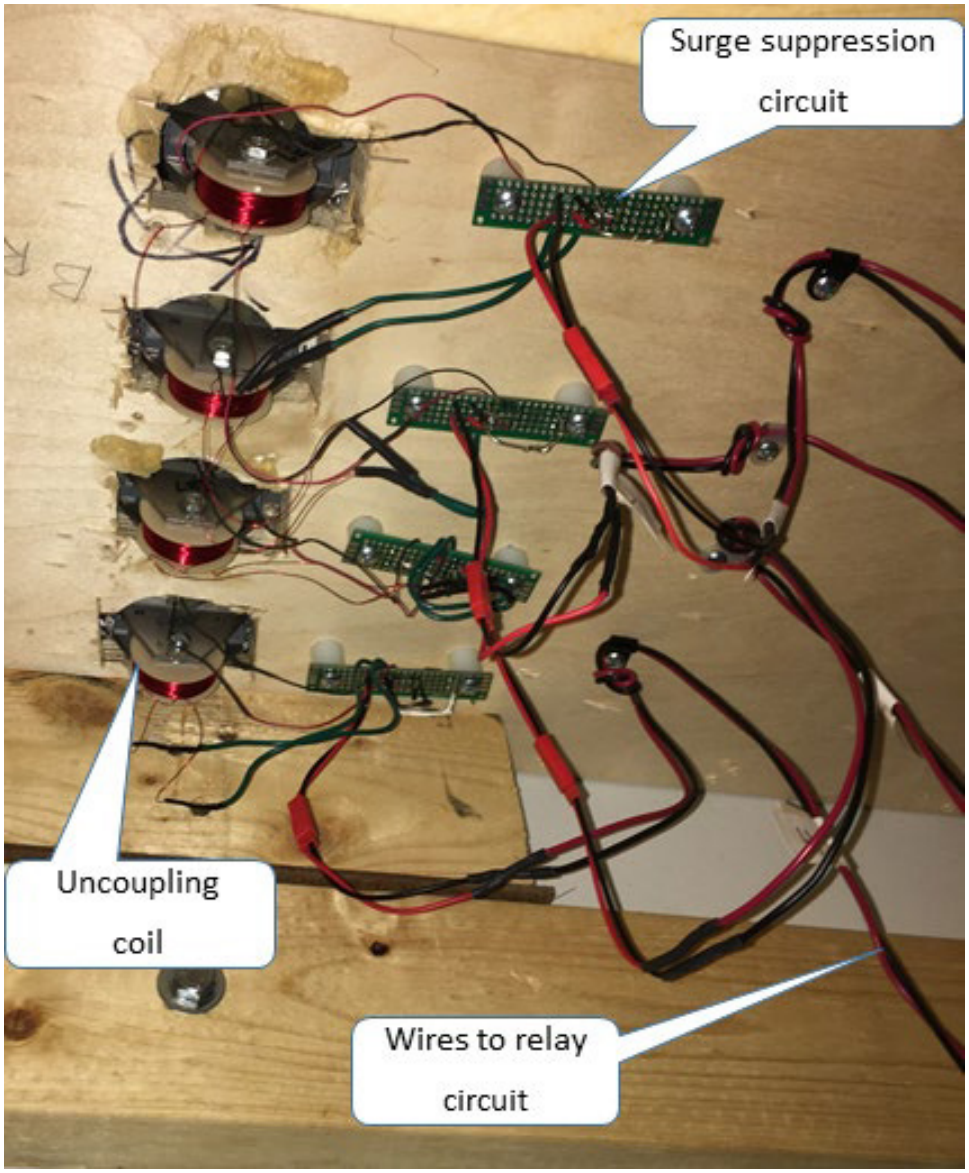


Figure 13. A view underneath the layout of the coils and wires

Each coil is connected with the red wire to the 16 Vdc power supply, and the black wire, as shown in Figure 14, goes to the relay to be connected to ground, to complete the circuit when the Arduino turns the relay on. When the current is flowing through the coil, there is 16 volts across it, which also turns the blue LED on with its own current limiting resistor in series (4.7 kOhm shown).

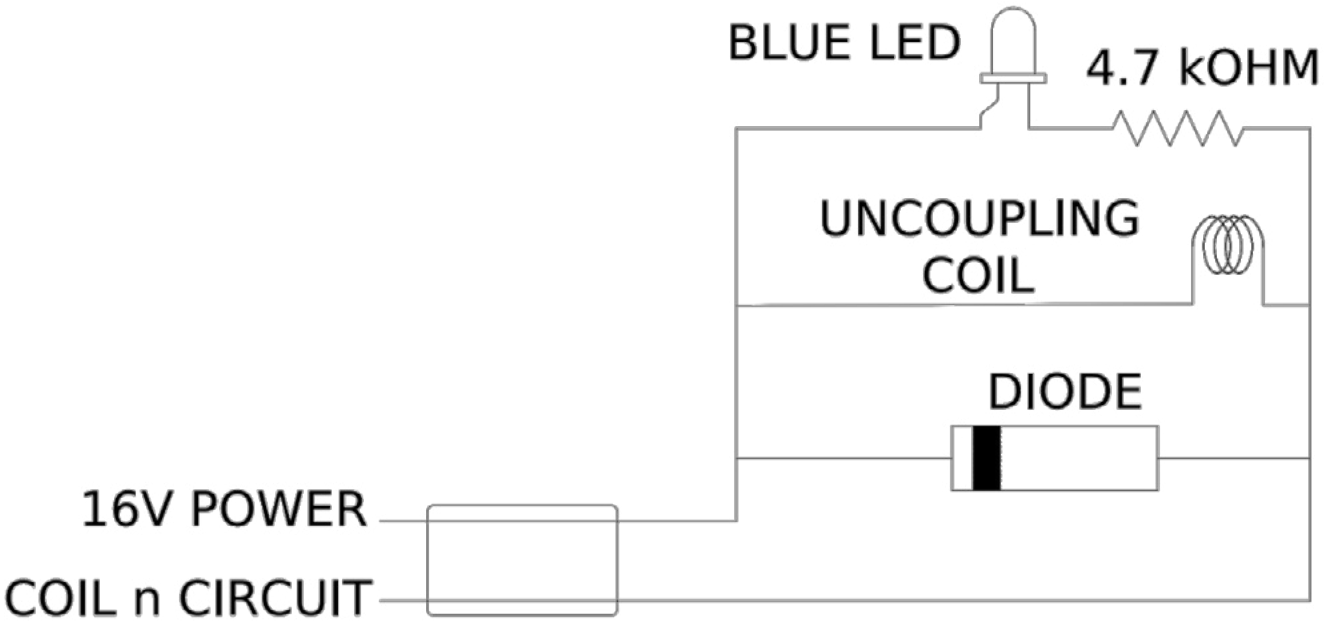


Figure 14. Energy dissipation circuit with coil and blue LED wiring diagram

A much needed part in this circuit is the diode in reverse across the coil, to make sure when the relay turns off, the coil has a path to bleed the current flowing through it down. Just like capacitors keep voltages on them, coils (or inductors) like to to keep current flowing through them. If you don't provide a path for the current, the voltage will rise to either arc through the relay, or somewhere else where the black and red wires are close to each other. We also don't want our LED to experience hundreds of volts, so the diode helps us out nicely when the coil is turned off.

The operator's attention is focused on the walkway during uncoupling. So there is a blue LED there as well as on the operator interface panel.

Flow diagram for the code

I found that drawing a few boxes with lines to show what you want the code to do, helps quite a bit. You will find that it is easier to write code as it is following the lines to the different boxes instead of writing code without a guide. In a few cases you will find the code is not doing what you expected, and then you realize the boxes and lines had the mistake too! I wish I had thought of this before writing the program instead of after.

In the Flow Diagram below (Figure 15), n is the number of coils or relays in the system, and the button 5, in my case, is the button to turn everything, relays and LED's, off.

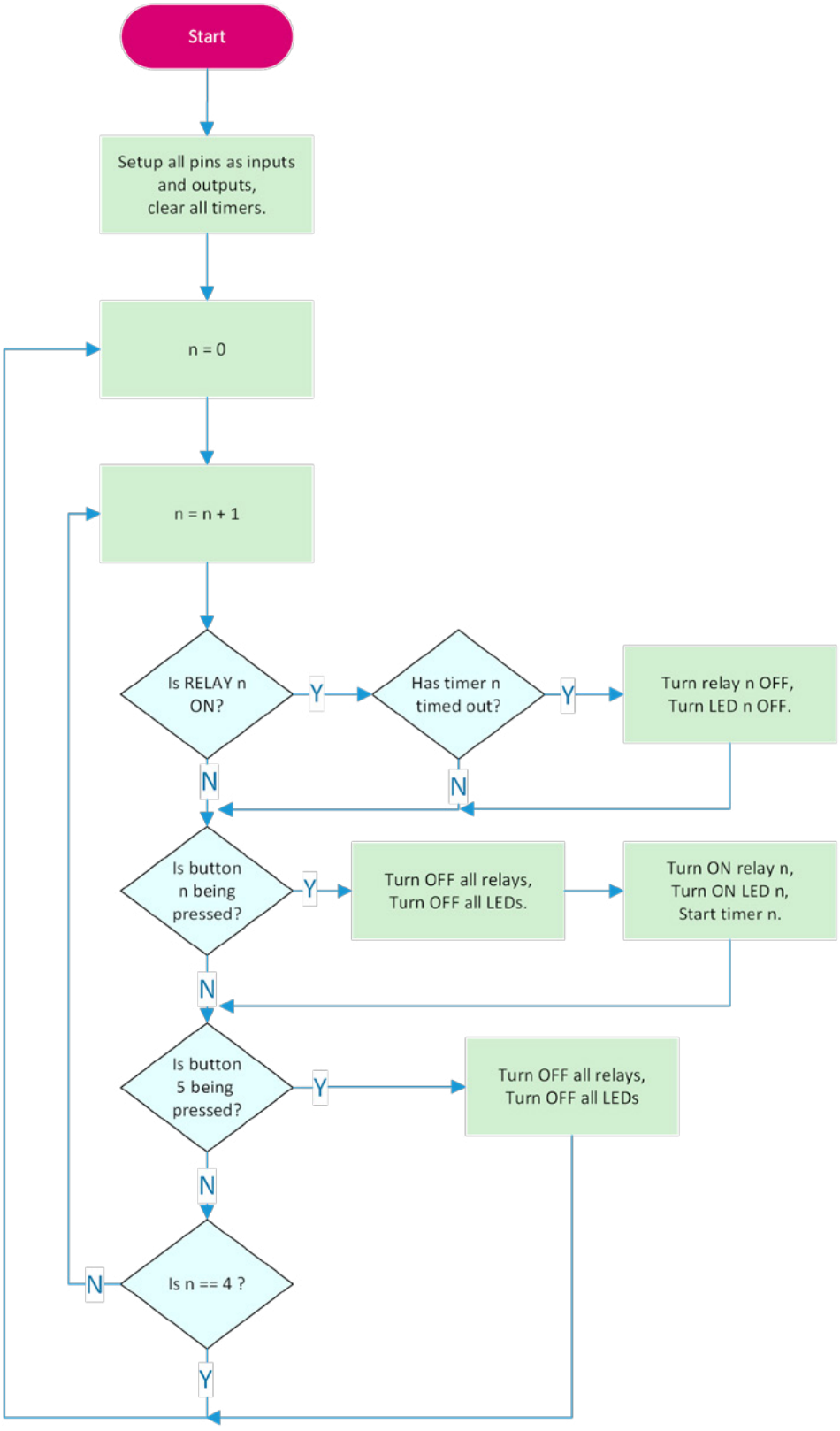


Figure 15. Flow chart for sketch

And now for the long awaited code

```
#define VERSION_STR "Uncouplers are ready, version 0.11, 2020.07.14"
//                                                          Uncoupler_Mega_11
//  A modification of version 2 - Written by Speed Miller for a Nano

//  To get a few more pins, this version is for an Arduino Mega/Elegoo 2560
//  Version 10 ran flawlessly.  Now the comments need to be updated.

//  October 31, 2019 - Changed timeout to 5 seconds.  10 was too long
//  July 14, 2020 - Updated comments
//  Note: This code is written such that when an output is made HIGH, it turns the device OFF
//    Likewise, making an output LOW turns the device ON


#define  RELAYOUT01  40
#define  RELAYOUT02  42
#define  RELAYOUT03  44
#define  RELAYOUT04  46
#define  LED01  32
#define  LED02  34
#define  LED03  36
#define  LED04  38
#define  BUTTONIN01  22
#define  BUTTONIN02  24
#define  BUTTONIN03  26
#define  BUTTONIN04  28
#define  BUTTONIN05  30
#define  LEDPIN  13

//  TIMEOUT is in milliseconds, so 10 seconds is 10,000 milliseconds
#define  TIMEOUT  5000  //  relay turns off after...5 seconds
#define  LEDTOGGLE  200  //  cycle period of pin 13

unsigned  long  now;

unsigned  long  beforeRelay01;
unsigned  long  beforeRelay02;
unsigned  long  beforeRelay03;
unsigned  long  beforeRelay04;
unsigned  long  beforeLED;

bool  relayOn01;
bool  relayOn02;
bool  relayOn03;
bool  relayOn04;
bool  relayOn05;

void  setup()  {
  Serial.begin(  115200  );  //  Make sure the Serial Monitor is also set to 115200

  //  The following 5 statements expects the input to be "LOW" to be ON
  //  In other words, short the pin to GND with a momentary button
  pinMode(  BUTTONIN01,  INPUT_PULLUP  );
  pinMode(  BUTTONIN02,  INPUT_PULLUP  );
  pinMode(  BUTTONIN03,  INPUT_PULLUP  );
  pinMode(  BUTTONIN04,  INPUT_PULLUP  );
  pinMode(  BUTTONIN05,  INPUT_PULLUP  );

  //  Set output pins, Relays and LEDs
  pinMode(  RELAYOUT01,  OUTPUT  );
  pinMode(  RELAYOUT02,  OUTPUT  );
  pinMode(  RELAYOUT03,  OUTPUT  );
```

```
  pinMode(                    RELAYOUT04,                 OUTPUT                  );
  pinMode(                LED01,                      OUTPUT                  );
  pinMode(                LED02,                      OUTPUT                  );
  pinMode(                LED03,                      OUTPUT                  );
  pinMode(                LED04,                      OUTPUT                  );
  pinMode(                    LEDPIN,                 OUTPUT                  );

  allOff(    );                                                       //   turn   all   off

  //              set             all             the             timers              to              "now"
  now   =   beforeRelay01   =   beforeRelay02   =   beforeRelay03   =   beforeRelay04   =   beforeLED   =   millis();

  Serial.println(                                 VERSION_STR                                 );

  digitalWrite(       LEDPIN,       LOW       );                                  //       turn       LED       off
}                                   //                                  setup(                                  )

/*
 *              Turn                off             all             relays              and             LEDs
 *                  Reset                       all                     relay                       variables
 */
void                                allOff(                                 )                                   {
  digitalWrite(     LED01,      HIGH      );                                          //     turn     LED     off
  digitalWrite(       RELAYOUT01,       HIGH       );                                  //     turn     relay     off
  relayOn01 = false;                            // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
  digitalWrite(     LED02,      HIGH      );                                          //     turn     LED     off
  digitalWrite(       RELAYOUT02,       HIGH       );                                  //     turn     relay     off
  relayOn02 = false;                            // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
  digitalWrite(     LED03,      HIGH      );                                          //     turn     LED     off
  digitalWrite(       RELAYOUT03,       HIGH       );                                  //     turn     relay     off
  relayOn03 = false;                            // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
  digitalWrite(     LED04,      HIGH      );                                          //     turn     LED     off
  digitalWrite(       RELAYOUT04,       HIGH       );                                  //     turn     relay     off
  relayOn04 = false;                            // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
}                                   //                                  allOff(                                 )

void   loop(    )   {                                                       //   Loop   starts   here
  now       =    millis(     );                                                  //    capture    now

  //                                                  first                                                   relay
  if(       relayOn01       )       {       //       is       relay01       on?       then       check       timeout
    if   (   now   -   beforeRelay01   >   TIMEOUT   )   {     //   now   minus   before   longer   than   timeout?
      digitalWrite(     LED01,      HIGH      );                                      //     turn     LED     off
      digitalWrite(       RELAYOUT01,       HIGH       );                              //     turn     relay     off
      relayOn01 = false;                        // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
      Serial.print( "Relay 01 off at " );     // debugging for relay01 only, comment out when working
      Serial.println( now );                    // debugging for relay01 only, comment out when working
    }                                   //                                  if                                  timeout
  }                                     //                                    if                                    on

  if( digitalRead( BUTTONIN01 ) == LOW ) {  // the button is connected to ground when pressed, thus LOW
    allOff(                                                                                                     );
    relayOn01 = true;                                                   // now we should check the timeout
    beforeRelay01 = now;                                                 // set the time to check against
    digitalWrite(     LED01,      LOW     );                                        //     turn     LED     on
    digitalWrite(       RELAYOUT01,       LOW      );                               //     turn     relay     on
    Serial.print( "Relay 01 set at " );       // debugging for relay01 only, comment out when working
    Serial.println( now );                    // debugging for relay01 only, comment out when working

    //  The serial port will show the "set" message every 1 or 2 milliseconds as long as you
    //  hold the button in, that shows you how fast the 'puter spends to get back here
    // most people would consider a "debounce" on any button press, but here you will get a full 10 seconds
    //     after the last "bounce", not a show killer, so don't worry about the "bounce"!
  } // if pressed
```

```
// The next code does the same for relay02, 03 and 04, looking at buttonin02, 03 and 04.
// If nobody pressed a button, and no relay is on, nothing is really going on in loop(),
// which is what we want so we stay ready for the next button to be pressed. No delay()s, so no blocking!

//                                                  second                                                  relay
if(      relayOn02      )      {      //      is      relay02      on?      then      check      timeout
  if ( now - beforeRelay02 > TIMEOUT ) {    // is now minus before longer than timeout?
    digitalWrite(    LED02,    HIGH    );                                          //    turn    LED    off
    digitalWrite(      RELAYOUT02,      HIGH     );                               //     turn     relay     off
    relayOn02 = false;                          // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
  }                                 //                                 if                                 timeout
} // if on

if( digitalRead( BUTTONIN02 ) == LOW ) {  // the button is connected to ground when pressed, thus LOW
  allOff(                                                                                                   );
  relayOn02 = true;                                                 // now we should check the timeout
  beforeRelay02 = now;                                               // set the time to check against
  digitalWrite(    LED02,    LOW    );                                                  //    turn    LED    on
  digitalWrite(      RELAYOUT02,      LOW     );                                     //     turn     relay     on
} // if pressed

//                                                  third                                                   relay
if(      relayOn03      )      {      //      is      relay03      on?      then      check      timeout
  if ( now - beforeRelay03 > TIMEOUT ) {    // is now minus before longer than timeout?
    digitalWrite(    LED03,    HIGH    );                                          //    turn    LED    off
    digitalWrite(      RELAYOUT03,      HIGH     );                               //     turn     relay     off
    relayOn03 = false;                          // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
  }                                 //                                 if                                 timeout
} // if on

if( digitalRead( BUTTONIN03 ) == LOW ) {  // the button is connected to ground when pressed, thus LOW
  allOff(  );                                                                                  //  turn  all  off
  relayOn03 = true;                                               // now we should check the timeout
  beforeRelay03 = now;                                               // set the time to check against
  digitalWrite(    LED03,    LOW    );                                                  //    turn    LED    on
  digitalWrite(      RELAYOUT03,      LOW     );                                     //     turn     relay     on
} // if pressed

//                                                  fourth                                                  relay
if(      relayOn04      )      {      //      is      relay03      on?      then      check      timeout
  if ( now - beforeRelay04 > TIMEOUT ) {    // is now minus before longer than timeout?
    digitalWrite(    LED04,    HIGH    );                                          //    turn    LED    off
    digitalWrite(      RELAYOUT04,      HIGH     );                               //     turn     relay     off
    relayOn04 = false;                          // no need to check for timeout, since it is now off
  }                                 //                                 if                                 timeout
} // if on

if( digitalRead( BUTTONIN04 ) == LOW ) {  // the button is connected to ground when pressed, thus LOW
  allOff(  );                                                                                  //  turn  all  off
  relayOn04 = true;                                                 // reset relay parameter
  beforeRelay04 = now;                                               // set the time to check against
  digitalWrite(    LED04,    LOW    );                                                  //    turn    LED    on
  digitalWrite(      RELAYOUT04,      LOW     );                                     //     turn     relay     on
}                                 //                                 if                                 pressed
```

```
  //                                                                                    Cancel
  if( digitalRead( BUTTONIN05 ) == LOW ) {  // the button is connected to ground when pressed, thus LOW
    //                                Turn                                 everything                                off
    allOff(  );                                                                                    // turn all off
  }                                  //                                  Button                                  Press

  // but we also want a toggling LED to show the code is indeed running!
  if ( now - beforeLED > LEDTOGGLE ) {
    digitalWrite( LEDPIN, !digitalRead( LEDPIN ) );      // toggle the state of the LED
    // "!" is the "NOT" operator.  So the above statement writes NOT LEDPIN into LEDPIN.
    // LEDPIN is 13, the built-in LED.  You can also use "LED_BUILTIN"
    beforeLED                                                                                  = now;
  }                          //                          if                          LED                          timeout
}                                  //                                  loop(                                  )

// Sketch uses 3728 bytes (1%) of program storage space. Maximum is 253952 bytes.
// Global variables use 296 bytes (3%) of dynamic memory, leaving 7896 bytes for local variables. Maximum is
8192 bytes.
```

Conclusion

If your Arduino knew which track were selected, you could control the current with a single button. And when the route changed to a different track, the system would wait for that uncoupler button to be pressed. Then it would energize the coil for that new track.

Of course there might be 50 ways to skin this uncoupler, but I thought about it, tried some things, tested it and am now happily living with it, for the time being! I wish uncoupling with a swizzle stick were this easy.

A big “Thank You” to Speed Muller for his invaluable help in implementing the uncoupler system and encouraging me to write this article.

Contact me or Speed if you have any questions!

Mike

==========

See, not that hard to make something work AND tell us about it. Anyone else willing to share a problem, how you solved it and share the code?

Your turn!
Speed

ML

OYE
ROTARY
0 Y
KEEP OFF
Y

XCURSION

Feb 29th - March 1st, 2020

Photos by Marc LaChey

Rotary OY just out of Chama

Rotary OY entering the Narrows

Rotary OY in the Narrows

Rotary OY in the Narrows

Rotary OY exiting the Narrows

OY and full train headed to Cresco

OY at Coxo Crossing

OY at Cumbres

OY on Windy Point

Rotary OY with engines 487 and 484 pushing

Rotary OY south of the Narrows

Rotary OY north of Oso Negro Ranch entrance

ML

GROUND THROW INSTALLATION *in tight spaces*

by Ken Mason

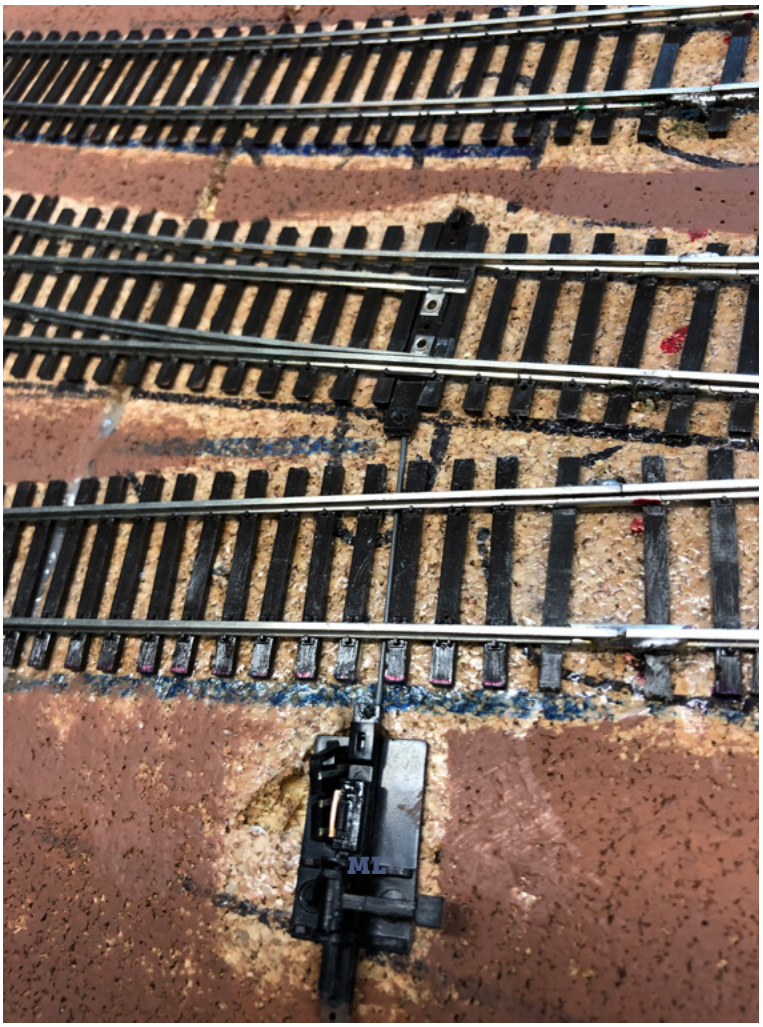
Our club, the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana just recently added a new industrial district to out layout called the Natchez Industrial District. We have added a number of industries to switch to generate more operations on the Crescent Lines.

With the track plan that was designed and approved by our layout committee, we installed the track plan over about a 30 day period including installing 30 new turnouts. We used all code 83 Walthers flex track and Walthers code 83 power routing DCC friendly turnouts.

Some of the turnouts were in very close proximity to the others and I did not have the physical space to install the Caboose Hobbies ground throws to throw the points of the turnouts. I should mention that we used the Caboose Hobbies ground throws that also power the frogs by a small connection on the ground throw itself and wire connections underneath to the DCC bus wires and to the frog of each turnout. One particular turnout, (see picture 1) was a pretty simple matter of connecting the ground throw to a short wire underneath a piece of flex track to reach the throw bar of the turnout. The other two were a bit more complicated.

We had four turnouts in very tight confines and I could not physically fit the ground throw between the tracks. I came up with a unique solution that might be of interest to other modelers trying to throw the points of turnouts in a tight location.

What I ended up doing was to attach the throw bars of both turnouts to a short piece of wire so that when the ground throw is used to throw the turnout, both sets of points move the same way at the same time. (See pictures 2 & 3).



Picture 1

At the same time, the wire that runs from the power routing of the ground throw for the frog, splits into two underneath the layout and then is attached to each frog that the ground throw controls, thus powering each diverging route and the same time of each normal route at the same time. (See the green wires in picture 4).

Being installed in an industrial switching area, we figured the we would only be switching one of each set of tracks at a time, so there would be no conflict in trying to use both

Picture 2

Picture 3

tracks at the same time. So far this idea and plan has worked out great.

If you would like to see a video of how this is actually working, check out our Crescent City Model Railroad Club Facebook page.

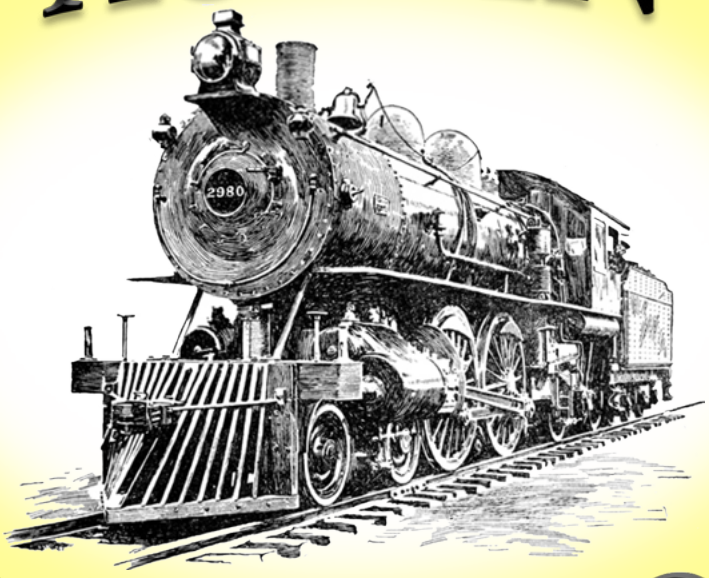
https://www.facebook.com/106446982737565/videos/2664804693548292/

ML

Picture 4

2021

AUSTIN



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Sponsored by the Austin Model Railway Society

nmra virtual model railroad convention

NMRAx: Digital Opportunities to grow the hobby,
by Gordy Robinson

Personally, I have never been so engaged and busy with my hobby than I have in 2020. With lockdowns and stay in place orders beginning to take effect across the globe the world as we knew it has changed. A popular manufacturer recently said that the past 6 months have felt like the Christmas rush and the virtual & physical shelves of hobby stores have been emptied quicker than the toilet paper aisle at the grocery store.

However Model Railroaders enjoy one of the few hobbies you can do when locked in your home, suddenly finding the time to catch up on all those projects we had been putting off. As members of the NMRA we know how important it is for us to socialise and share our knowhow with each other. Unless you are lucky enough to live with a family of model railroaders it's still simply impossible to meet face to face indoors without restrictions.

So, it has been encouraging to see the digital transformation that has changed how we interact in the workplace and at home, hands up who actually spoke so frequently with none local model railroaders or distant friends and family before March? Nevermind doing that on Zoom or some other virtual medium.

Just as in our "real lives" the NMRA has seen a growing number of Regions and Divisions move their events online. In fact the new catch phrases of the world and the NMRA truly are "can you see my screen yet?" and "I can hear you, can you hear me?". Just like when we do anything for the first time, we have all picked up some skills I think 6 months ago we might have said were beyond us.

Although those in the LSR were fortunate enough to hold their 2020 Regional Convention, a number of local and national NMRA conventions elsewhere have been cancelled due to the impact of the pandemic, so I decided it was time to launch NMRAx. The program was conceived a few years ago following the Orlando 2017 NMRA convention. Being primarily designed to support the digital transformation of the organisation at local and national levels. A small team of NMRA members including Speed from the LSR, Brad & Martyn from the Australasian Region and myself, Gordy Robinson from the British Region have provided a number of virtual conventions to replace those lost throughout the spring and early summer. These events were streamed live to Facebook and YouTube with the videos available after the event for on-demand viewing.

Over 200 hours of clinics, layout tours and live Q&As with MMR®s have been added to the NMRA YouTube channel since April 2020. We have also had members of the LSR provide clinics to these events and I'd like to thank all of those who have given their time to the project and I hope their participation encourages more of you to have a go in future. Highlights of this program being the week long GatewayX during what would have been National Convention week in St Louis and SERx which feature 3 simultaneous live streams over an 8 hour period replacing the South Eastern Regions cancelled 2020 convention.

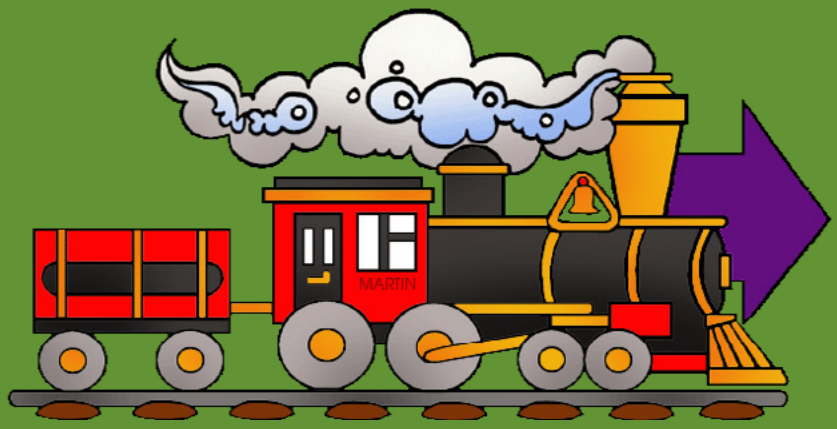
All NMRAx events have been free and open to all including non-members, not one cent of NMRA money has been spent to provide these events either. With regions globally showing an increase in membership despite the loss of so many recruitment opportunities this year has really shown the success of NMRAx and moving local meetings online. NMRAx will continue but now on a less frequent basis as we adjust to a new normal in our lives, however the team are committed to monthly content with longer events taking place once per quarter. The team are also actively in discussions with NMRA Regions and Divisions to support digitising other face-2-face events that would have taken place in 2020.

Future Events
NMRA National BOD Leadership Roundtable
Aug 22 2020 2-4pm CDT

NMRAx Ask the MMR(R)
Sept 12 2020 5-7pm CDT

NMRAx Fall Virtual Convention
Sept 26 2020 11am-11pm CDT

ML



Wanted! Nominees for the LSR 2020 Youth Award

- **Who:** Any boy or girl 18 years old or younger with an interest in model railroading.
- **Where:** One nominee from each LSR Division.
- **A past awardee:** May be renominated for another year if they meet the qualifications specified in the LSR Constitution. **Contact Jim Lemmond jimlem@comcast.net**

How: Fill out the special Youth Award Membership Form available on **http://www.lonestarregion.com/**

When: Submit your nomination to **your LSR Division Director** by December 1, 2020.

For more information contact:
Jim Lemmond, Youth Chairman: **jimlem@comcast.net**

NOW AVAILABLE!

Color

Pike and Dealer Ads

Pike and dealer ads are now available in color for the same price! Share your railroad or advertise your business to others while supporting the Lone Star Region.

- **Do you have a herald for your railroad?**
- **Is there a unique feature?**
- **What is the name of your hotshot freight or crack passenger service?**

Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

Pike ads are $8 per year and dealer ads are $20 per year.

Payment should be made out to:
LSR NMRA

Contact Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to:
rileytriggs@gmail.com

2020 Lone Star Region Convention

Contest Report

by Duane Richardson, MMR

Entry Totals

Total Number of Entries in Model Contest:	29	
Total Number of Entries in Photo Content:	16	
Total Number of Entries in Arts & Crafts	11	
Grand Total Entries Entered in the 2020 Contest	56	
Total Models that Merited	30	(10 Arts & Crafts) (20 Models)

Personnel for the Contest Room

Contest Room Worker	Dan Formanek, Nathan Oxhandler, Ray Byer Jeff Palmer
JudgesModel	Don Formanek, Loren Nuefild , Scott Parker Duane Richardson, Don Winn, Rod Fredricks, Don Kimmel, Lou McCleary, Jeff Palmer, Ray Byer
Judges Arts &Crafts	Cathy Ashcroft, Mrs. Freitag, Nathan Oxhandler
Judges Photo	Duane Richardson, Nathan Oxhandler
Lone Star Region Contest Judges	Jeff Palmer, Ray Byer

Model Contest Winners

Steam Locomotives:	Tom Greco w/ B&O Class P7-C 4-6-2 #5308
Diesel Engines:	None
Traction & Other Motive Power :	None
Passenger Cars:	1) Tom Greco w/ B&O ClassH-8 RPO Car

Freight Cars: 1) Lourdes McCleary w/ Orther Hopper
2) Geoffrey Hogno w/ Wire Car

Maintenance of Way: 1) Don Winn w/ G.N. Water Tank

Caboose: 1) None

On-Line Structures: 1) Scott Parker w/ Brett's Brewery
2) Lourdes McCleary w/ Tower One
3) Scott Parker w/ Goldies Locksmith

Bridges & Trestles: 1) Lourdes McCleary w/ Fink Bridge
2) Scott Parker w/ Cover Bridge

Displays / Modules: 1) Jeff Nichols w/ Nebraska Farm
2) Virginia Grace w/ Japanese Tea Garden
3) Steve Jackobs w/ Reefer Service Car

Special Contest; San Jacinto Model Club: Bob Dannenbrink Open Carload
1) Ray Byer w/ Piggy Packer
2) Brady Mc Guiae w/ Wooden Cable Reels
3) William Van Pelt w/ Compressor Load

Photography Contest Winners

Prototype-B&W Prints: 1) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-9) Cumbres & Toltec Engine #489
2) Brain Kelly w/(72-2) Intersection of Tracks
3) Brain Kelly w/(72-1) Reflections of Light

Prototype-Color Prints: 1) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-9) Wellington Cable Car
2) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-8) Durango & Silverton Engine #481
3) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-6) Rainbows at the Cambres & Toltec

Model-B&W Prints: 1) None
2)
3)

Model-Color Prints: 1) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-2) Log Camp at the Frisco Train Museum
2) Geoffrey Hogno w/ (32-3) Rio Magginore Liguria Italy
3) Geoffrey Hogno w/ (32-1) San Gimigliano Tuscany Italy

Model-Computer Enhanced: None

Photography Major Contest Awards

Photography Best in Show: Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-2)
Log Camp at the Frisco Train Museum

Arts & Crafts Contest Winners

General:
1) Judith Neufeld w/ Under the Sea
2) Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Marmalade Jar
3) Judith Neufeld w/ Ballet Dancer

Railroadiana:
1) Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Mariborough Train Magnet
2) Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Cumbres & Toltec Magnet

Needlework:
1) Vickie Price w/ Lattice Garden

Theme:
1) Judith Neufeld w/ Sunset at Medusa Ranch
2) Judith Neufeld w/ Snow on Sunset Globe
3) Vickie Price w/ Hurst Sunset

Arts & Crafts Major Contest Awards

Arts& Crafts Youth & Teen Award: None

Most Poplar Arts & Crafts Entry: Vicki Price w/ Lattice Garden Baby Blanket

Arts & Crafts Novice Best in Show: None

Arts & Crafts Best in Show: Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Marlborough Train Magnet

Major Model Contest Awards

Participation: Scott Parker w/ 6 Entries Total Points of 661.5

Best Kit-Built Model: Scott Parker w/Slick Willies

Architecture Award: None

Tree Award: Virginia Grace w/ Japanese Tea Garden

Youth & Teen Award: None

Most Popular Complete Train: Tom Greco w/ B&O Capital Limited

Bob Clarke Logging Award: None
Linda S. Little Award: Lou McCleary w/ Fink Bridge

Most Popular Model: Bill Kurak w/ Cameron Machine Shop

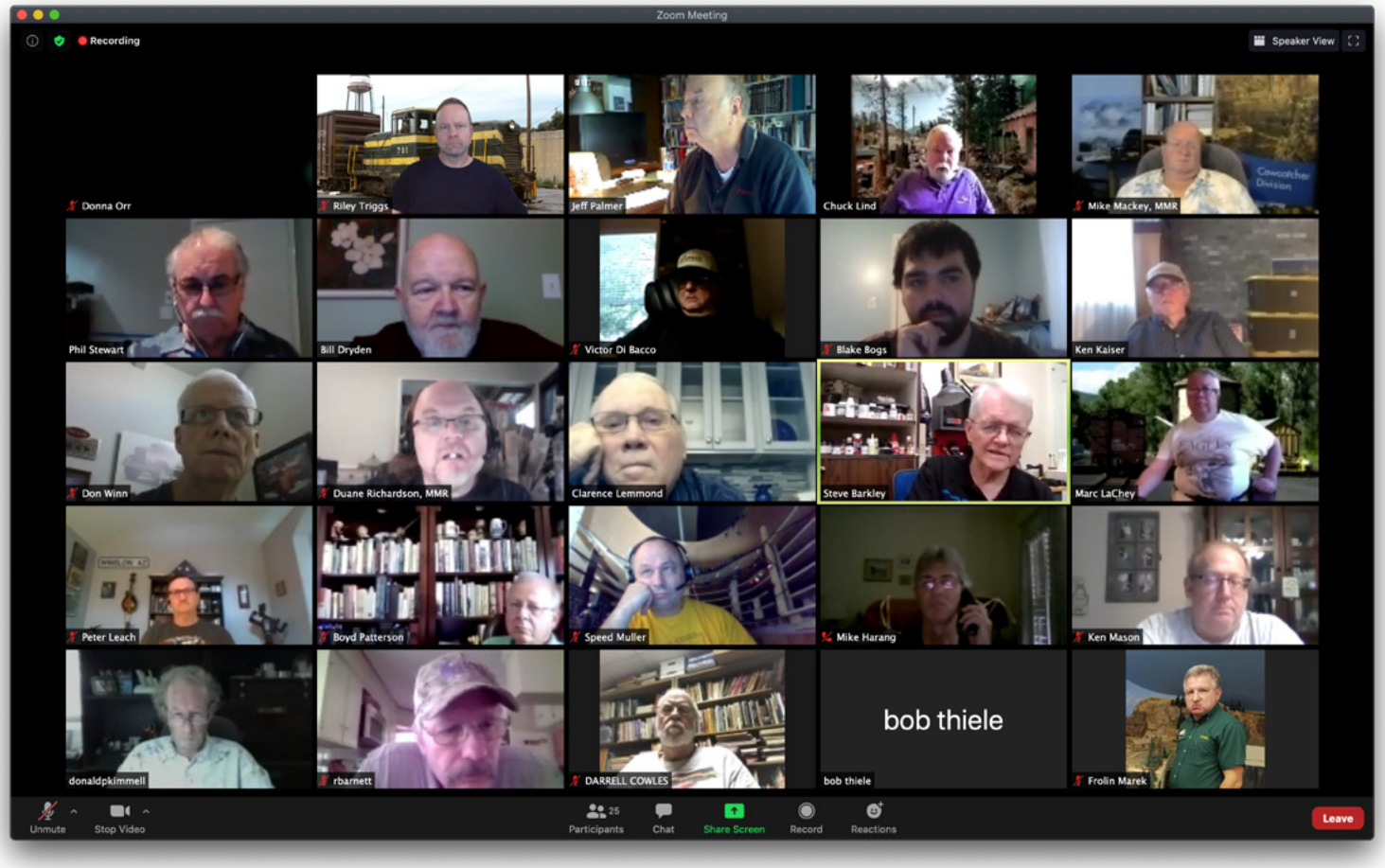
Model Novice Best in Show: Lou McCleary w/ Fink Bridge

Model Best In Show: Lou McCleary w/ Fink Bridge

2020 Freitag Service Award

The 2020 Freitag Service Award was presented to Bob Sabol (Left) and Greg Johnson (Right). San Jacinto Model Railroader president Kelly Russell presented the awards at the 2020 Lone Star Region convention. Also pictured is the awards namesake, Gil Freitag, MMR.

Board of Directors MEETING MINUTES



MINUTES OF THE LONE STAR REGION BOARD MEETING
Houston, Texas – June 6, 2020

President Chuck Lind called the Annual Board meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except:

Voting Board Members:

Ray Byer - proxy – Donna Orr
Dave Lamberts - Proxy – Jeff Palmer

Non-voting Board Members:

Virginia Freitag

Visitors

As each director introduced their quest:

Guest	Division Director
Frolin Marek	Don Winn
Victor Dibacco	BobThiele
Boyd Patterson	Donna Orr

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Secretary Jeff Palmer provided a motion and Director Donna Orr seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as published the Minutes of the June 6, 2020 Annual Board of Directors meeting published in the 2020 Winter issue of The Marker Lamp. The motion designated as 2020-06-06 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers' Reports

President Chuck Lind

The President's Report was submitted by email to all Board members and is summarized as follows:

Welcome to a very strange year 2020. We are learning about social distancing and how to wash our hands, something I think my mother taught me to do many years ago. I don't know what kind of crystal ball Bob Barnett had when he planned the LSR Convention to be in February but it worked. The National NMRA Convention along with most of the Region conventions are being canceled due to the pandemic as we all wait and see what is next.

With all that is happening people still want to get together so Zoom meetings have suddenly became the way to still visit and see other modelers. Several of the Divisions have started doing their monthly meetings using this platform as well as the San Jac club in my area. I have participated in several and saw some great clinics that I may not have seen since they were out of my Division. If you get a chance give it a try, not the same as meeting face to face but at least you can still learn something and you get to see someone other than your spouse,

First, I would like to welcome some new members to the LSR Board. Phil Stewart takes over as the Division 8 Director, Pete Leach and Darrell Cowles are the new Directors at Large. Pete has also taken over as our Nomination Chair, so if you are thinking about running for an office contact Pete. Due to the self-distancing rules and travel restrictions we will be having our June Board Meeting via Zoom conferencing. The meeting will take place at 1PM on June 6th. It is an open meeting so LSR members are welcome to listen in on the meeting. Due to some issues with Zoom Bombing if you are a member and want to listen in please contact you Division Director and he will supply you information on what you will need to do, if you just try to get on without following this step you will be deleted by the moderator if you name is not on the list.

At the last Board meeting in February it was approved to have a joint convention with the MCoR folks. The tentative date for the convention is June 16-19, 2021 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The convention will start on Thursday evening with several layout open for operations Wednesday evening and Thursday morning and afternoon. The co-chairs for the convention will be Marc LaChey from the LSR and Ken Ehlers from MCoR. Put the date on your calendar and plan to attend what looks to be a great convention with new layouts to see and new clinics to learn from. I visited Tulsa the week along with Marc to view two hotels in Tulsa along with Ken. The meetings at both hotels were very productive and hopefully will be selected shortly. Since we have all been self-distancing and not able to go anywhere there should be a bumper crop of new models in the contest room.

Jim Lemmond has stepped down as Director but is still involved with our youth program. Please look for active youth in your region and get with Jim on nominating them for the Youth Award. This past year we had a couple of youth that we recognized, surely you have some active young people in your in your Division, let's keep Jim busy.

Speed has been working to put together a new budget and with no convention in the upcoming budget year we will zero budget our Contest and Ladies Craft budget for the next year only to make up for over spending in the past budget year..

Hope all our members stay safe and hopefully we can all get together soon.

Vice President Ray Byer

Well the last six months has been strange times to live in. I hope all who reads this finds themself and family doing well. As you may be aware the NMRA has come out with a new policy on the treatment of Youth members. How we need to conduct our interaction with them, when they are at a National, Region or Division events. I hope during these

events that the parents are with the Youth member. To share in the enjoyment of the hobby, not using this time as a babysitting event.

I believe this hobby has so much to give to Youth members and it starts with the parents. Not with a club or a National organization but at home. The love for this hobby starts with Mom and Dad, playing with trains is a family event. Mom and Dad helps them to build a plywood layout, a field of dreams. Where they learn the skills to build and create, as their skill level grows as a family, this is where we (Clubs, NMRA events) come into the picture! To show them how to get more out of the hobby at a club event. To show how this hobby can be more than playing with trains, but how to teach the skills the Youth member can use in the future. Like using their minds to build, to use tools safely, to be proud of what they have built and the friendship in the hobby. These are the things we need to be doing, not to be a babysitting service. If a Youth member comes to an event, please make sure that the parent is there and is part of the event as much as the youth member is too. It will make this event a happy event in the family's memories of the hobby.

So as an organization, how do we manage this new NMRA policy on Youth members? Simply stating" that no one under the age of 18 years old cannot attend an event without a parent" will not work! Some people will look at this statement and think we are looking out for the welfare of a Youth who attends an event and some people will look at this statement thinking we do not wish to have youths at an event, which is not true. As an organization whose parent organization is the NMRA really has not given a clear way of implementing this policy. As a Region how do we implement this policy? As a Region what age can someone under the age of 18 can attend an event without a parent? How does the Region enforce this policy and give guidance to its divisions? These are some hard questions that needs to be answered, basically if we have contact with a Youth member. Make sure the parent is there and you have a second person with you during this time. So, if a problem does occur, the problem can be documented by someone other than you and the parent.

The second subject I would like to talk about is age. More important at what age to become an officer in the organization. This is a big can of worms to open. Some people think 18 years is okay, then some people think 21 years is okay, and then some others think 25 years is okay too. What age a person is does not make that person good for the job at hand. The only thing that matters is, if the membership who is nominating them, thinks that person can do the job for them. And if the nominee thinks he or she can do the job and is willing to do the job for what he or she is being nominated for. We as an organization do need to set an age requirement for its officers, but we need to look at the beginning. The process starts at the nomination form for an organization. On this form it should state what age a person can run for an elected office and how many years in the hobby. This information should be used by the nomination committee to see if this person would be a benefit to the organization and has fulfilled the requirements to be an officer as stated per the By-Laws of the organization.

So as an organization we need to check to see if the By-Laws are current for the times. The current By-laws have been around more than fifty years and was written in a simpler time. It may be time to look at them, too see if changes are needed. Currently before the LSR Board is a motion to change the By-Laws to state an elected officer needs to be 21 years or older. I do not agree with the motion at hand, but I think we need to change the process on how we nominate an officer. We as an Organization need to have a clear path on how a person can become an elected officer. How do we set the path; the organization needs to be clear on what a nominee needs to do? Has the nominee been in the service of the hobby, like holding office in a club or at a division level? Does the nominee understand the requirements of the office he or she is running for? Has the organization stated what is required to holding office? Has the nominee meet the age requirement of the organization and the NMRA? This is some of the things we as an organization need to be looking at before a person has been elected to an office. Not just the age of the person but the ability to fulfill the office he or she was elected too.

Treasurer Gert "Speed" Muller
The Treasurer's Report, was submitted by email to the Board members and is summarized as follows:

2018/2019 Financial Year :

Beginning Balances (2018/05/01)	
LSR Unrestricted Accounts	$38,677.69
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth (A)	$38,677.69

Liabilities			
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$	528.86	
Division 2&7 in Escrow	$	78.50	
Delattre Fund	$	816.00	
Starting Bank Saldo			$40,101.05
Proceeds			
Convention			$ 5,123.00
NMRA Rebate		$ 1,706.00	
Total Proceeds (B)			$ 6,829.00
Disbursements			
Youth membership awards			$ 120.00
Treasurer Expenses and Postage			$ 29.05
NMRA Rebates to Divisions			$ 853.00
Convention Non-rail			$ 740.00
Contest Room Expenses			$ 817.57
Website Expenses (covering 3 years)			$ 596.14
Total Disbursements (C)			$ 3,155.76
Net Proceeds-Disbursements (B-C)			$ 3,673.24
Updates to the Restricted Funds:			
Delattre Fund			$ -156.00
Division 2 Rebate out of Escrow			$ -0.50
Division 5 Rebate in Escrow			$ 21.50
Division 7 Rebate in Escrow			$ 23.00
Change in Liabilities (D)			$ 112.00
Ending Balances (04/30/2020)			
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total			$ 42,350.93
Total LSR Net Worth (E=A+B+C)		$ 42,350.93	
Liabilities (F)			
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$	528.86	
Division 2&7 in Escrow	$	122.50	
Delattre Fund	$	660.00	
Starting Bank Saldo (G=E+F)			$ 43,662.29

The annual audit was conducted by the audit committee consisted of Donna Orr and Marc LaChey.

Secretary Jeff Palmer
The Secretary's Report, was submitted by email to the Board members and is summarized as follows:

Since our February 13, 2020 BOD meeting, the LSR Secretary worked with the Nomination Chair, Pete Leach, to hold the 2020 LSR Officers election. This is an ongoing process which began shortly after the Annual BOD Meeting in June 2019. The first phase of the process is to identify the candidates, and obtain their profile. This phase was closed on December 1, 2019. The second phase is to turn all of the profiles over to the web chair and the building of the election website - https://geekwith-trains.com which was done. The last phase is to report back to the Nomination Chair with the online results to be merged with the snail mail results, which has been done.

In each of the months since the BOD meeting, the secretary posted the NMRA Roster Reports.

Currently the secretary is trying to pull together the various reports from the other LSR Officers and Chairs in preparation of

the June 6, 2020 BOD meeting. The cooperation of the officers and chairs would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to the 2021 convention in Tulsa.

As covered in the Web chair Report, the LSR Website continues to be stable. I would also like to thank Chris Atkins for allowing the LSR to use the https://geekwithtrains.com website to hold our elections.

One last note, please remember in your reporting that education is our prime directive and to hi-lite it where possible in your reporting.

I would like to give a special thanks to Pete Leach who stepped into the Nomination Chair position mid-election and has done a great job. A special thanks goes to Blake for his above and beyond help dusing the transition.

Advisor Steve Barkley No Report

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Mike Mackey reported:
In the immortal words of Emerson, Lake & Palmer, "Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends. We're so glad you could attend. Come inside, Come inside… The shows about to start." And with that, we are another month into "Social Distancing."

While we are apart, we are connected and connecting! The LSR board has been conducting business via teleconferencing and staying in touch on several issues. More on that later. April 25, 2020 marked a HUGE turn for the NMRA. I was fortunate enough to be invited to be a clinician on the first ever, to be repeated, NMRA-X Virtual Convention. This 24 hour gathering, which offered a clinic an hour by 24 different clinicians, had an average hourly attendance of over 225 in each clinic. The "convention" was held on the Facebook platform. This platform was chosen because over 20,000 NMRA members subscribe to the NMRA Facebook group and because the organizers wanted this event to be free to anyone with an interest in model railroading. Since such an event needed to be advertised in some way, this offered a way to get the information out, at no cost to the event, so that more people would have the opportunity to attend this first event. The next event will be broadcast on May 16, 2020, on multiple platforms so that those with concerns about Facebook can be set at ease. Check back on the Division 1 website for updates on future events. (www.cowcatcherdivision.org)

After a 2 month hiatus, Division 1 will hold our May, and possibly our June, meeting via Zoom. Please visit our website and Facebook page for more information on the meeting login information. To attend the Zoom meeting you will need to install the free Zoom app on your platform (PC, Mac, iPhone, Android, iPad, Tablet). We will send more meeting information the week of the meeting via our mass email distribution. We hope you can attend.

National Convention Update

As far as the 2023 Texas Express Convention goes, things are progressing as to be expected. Our team is well organized and plans are taking shape. Joe Leising, Convention Treasurer, is diligently compiling information from past LSR conventions, as well as other sources, so that our general ledger will be as concise as possible. The decision to wait until the Santa Clara convention in 2021 to begin our advertising campaign proved to be the correct one, especially since the cancellation of the 2020 national convention. This gives us more time to hone our materials for later use. At this time we are beginning the design of our integrated website, tweaking our tour plans and developing our agenda. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Until next time, … Stay Inside, Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

Division 2 Director Ken Mason reported:

Well this will be a very short report seeing that all events in the Bayou Division have been cancelled or put on hold because of the Coronavirus outbreak. I have had to cancel the big library show that was going to be a first-time event in this area and at this time have no possible date from the library to re-schedule it. Regular Friday night meetings and Wednesday night work sessions have been suspended at the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, although

some enterprising individuals continue to work on projects and improvements at the club on their own. The Mid-South Club in Baton Rouge has also suspended operating sessions for the near future until things are back to a more normal state. The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders in Jackson, LA. Have also suspended their 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month public open houses until further notice.

Hopefully, once the major threat of this virus is curtailed, we can all get back to a more normal life.

One thing I was able to do was to get a roll up banner made for Division 2 that will be used and displayed at future Division 2 events. (See the picture attached to this report.) I hope to be able to use it sooner rather than later. On a personal note, I have been getting MANY of my stored freight car kits assembled and weathered as well as a few locomotives that needed detail parts added to them and to also be weathered. So it seems that there is a really good reason why us model railroaders buy and collect as many kits as we do.

Best wished to everyone at this difficult time.

Division 3 Director Donna Orr reported:

February 15th, our last in person meeting for a while, but we did not know it then. The last subject on the clinic survey that received double digit votes was
BACKDROPS and that's what we will be covering this month. Mike Mackey and Jerry Hoverson gave examples of various types of backdrops.

Then came covid 19 and our March meeting was cancelled. At that time the next step would be to plan virtual meeting for April. Our meeting consisted of two clinics, show and tell and our usual questions and answers. Our first clinic was presented by Pete Steinmetz.:

Pete Steinmetz has been an avid modeler since childhood. He currently models HO and On30. He has been interested in painting and weathering for many years. Pete has combined techniques used by military modelers with products used by artists and developed a successful style that he uses to weather freight cars, locos, and structures. The techniques are simple and can make even the most reluctant modeler into a successful weathering person. He has been using Ammo of Mig products and Pan Pastels. He is one of the founders of the Dead Rail Society. Pete is also Membership Chair of the PSR and the Director of the San Diego Division.

Our second clinic was by Robert (Bob)Feuerstein:

Bob is a member of the Big Bend Model Railroading Association group in Tallahassee FL, and currently Assistant Superintendent of the Northern Division of the Sunshine Region. Currently the Sunshine Region Webmaster and assist with the NMRA.org Calendar on their website. In the past, He was a member of the NMRA and the Short Track Railroad Club in Vista CA since April of 2015 and after a move to Tallahassee Florida in May 2018, am now with Big Bend Model Railroad Association. With the guidance of the many wonderful members of the Sunshine Region and Big Bend Model Railroad Association, he is currently working on the Achievements to become a Master Model Railroader. He has been active at a Regional level participating in Regional Conventions. Bob Has taught clinics at the 2016 Culver City Convention, 2017 Ontario Convention, CA, Sunshine Region 2018 and National NMRA in Salt Lake City, Utah 2019.

Lee Bangma mentioned during our show and tell that he had some you tube videos that we could go and watch. Here is the info on his you tube videos.
Chinook Southern RR. 2 videos: upper and lower decks.
Poudre Valley RR. 1 video (narrow gauge)
(Both are HO scale.) (they have a pseudoname attached: Noel Trains. Since I do not have pictures this time. I thought those that read this could access Lee's videos.

There is something else that we are learning from this experience. Division 3 has as many members on line as we do at in person meetings. We are going to incorporate virtual clinics into our future in person meetings, this way members that live 2 hours away can still have access to our monthly activities. And using virtual meetings have helped to bring us into the future of communications. As we can see with NMRA-X virtual clinics. And it really doesn't add to our costs

to bring more members in virtually. I'm sure that we will learn more as we go. Stay safe and hope to see our members in person soon.

Division 4 Director Bob Thiele reported:

With the out break of the Virus the Division has been put into unfamiliar environment. With the first priority being the health and safety of the membership the last two Division meetings have been canceled. Also, the Train Show sponsored by the Austin Modeler Railroad Society had to be reschedule for the Labor Day weekend. It will still be held at the Williamson County Expo Center in Taylor Texas. The Division has been very fortunate in that several Divisions within the LSR have invited the membership to join in on Virtual meetings. They have been very informative and gives us a chance to visit with other NMRA members in the Region.

That this time I am in the process of developing a Virtual meeting for Division four members to participate in. It is one of the goals that I have been trying to accomplish as Director, to reach out to all member of the Division and have them participate in the meeting. With help from others I am working to make this experience as hassle free as possible. More information will be forth coming.

Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts No Report

Division 6 Don Winn reported:

In February, we held the Lone Star region convention in Houston, in conjunction with the Houston train show. Holding our convention in February was certainly unusual, and in this case it turned out to be very fortuitous to get it in prior the COVID-19 lockdown. It was a great event. I know I enjoyed it, and got AP points on a water car I built. For Division 6, we enjoyed the honor of recognizing Lance Halderman as our Youth Award winner for the year. [photo] Next time you see Lance, please add your congratulations on a job well done!

The week after the LSR convention was the annual SAMRA Train Show. It was a good show and well attended. I enjoyed meeting and chatting with a number of you there. The loco test track stayed busy, and brought additional people over to the table. We also signed up a new member, and possibly a few more who planned to sign up online. [2 photos] The spring version of the New Braunfels Train Show was cancelled, but look for it to come back strong again in October.

A number of organizations are learning to adapt to what is possible during this quarantine period. On April 18th, I attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Division 3. (I'm still on their mailing list, even though I never lived in Divison 3). It was a great meeting, and very well attended. Also on April 18th, I attended the Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG) zoom meeting featuring some great presentations.

But also on the 18th, the South Texas Railroad Social was held as a zoom meeting. Presentations included "A Depot for Ayers Junction", "Redheaded Stepchild on the California Zephyr" and a virtual layout tour of Robert Thomas' Crawford and Cherokee Railroad. With 35 folks calling in, the attendance was right on par with our attendance at regular meetings. Thanks to Frolin and Tom for working hard to put that together. The new format worked well, and may be used again if this quarantine period continues into the summer.

A number of modelers I have talked with over the past 2 months indicate that they are getting significantly more modeling accomplished during this shut-in. I, for one, laid all the track for my new Fox River branchline in March, and am following that up with structures to go with it in April. See elsewhere in this Marker Lamp for my article on kitbashing. I'm also building up some more cars for my AP requirements. If we have to be shut in, we have an absolutely great hobby to keep us busy. I would have to say it is the World's Greatest Hobby!

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell No Report

Division 8 Director Phil Stewart reported:

Division 8 has gotten off to a roaring start in 2020 despite the Coronavirus pandemic thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of our new president Jim Kelly. We have been unable to use the Community Center where we normally hold our clinics but Jim has have started video clinics via zoom. The first clinic was given by Jim on JMRI Install and Introduction to PanelPro. The clinic was also put on You Tube so for those folks who couldn't attend the clinic they could see the entire presentation on You Tube. Our second clinic will be conducted by Jay Williams. Jay will demonstrate how to use the Cricut Cutter to score styrene and create custom fit
interiors for HO structures. Jay will also show us how to use the DLP 3D Printer to create highly detailed prints.

The division has also e mailed to our member's surveys to see what activities and programs our members are interested in pursuing. We're evaluating the results now and will roll out those programs later in the year.

Hopefully in a few months we will resume live clinics and our other division activities.

Director-At-Large Marc LaChey reported:

Thanks to Division 8 for hosting the LSR Convention back in February 2020. While the timing of the convention was out of sync with a traditional June convention date, in hindsight the folks in Houston must have a great crystal ball. They got the convention in just before the Co-Vid 19 related shutdowns began to occur.

I was able to attend the Rotary Photo Excursion on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad on February 29 and March 1st. I provided some images from that event to Riley Triggs and trust that one or two may be published in the Marker Lamp. Seeing, hearing, and feeling Rotary OY as it plowed past us was impressive. The C&TSRR celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and has a number of special events planned for the upcoming season. I remain hopeful that anniversary related events will be able to go on in some fashion yet.

Kudos to several of our divisions for using technology to maintain some form of social interaction and continued meetings despite the shelter in place orders. I appreciate Donna Orr and James Knaab of Division 3 for hosting several on-line events. I know that Division 1 and 8 are also hosting on-line meetings.

During our February 2020 Board meeting, a motion was made to amend the By-Laws of the Lone Star Region to require elected officers to have reached the age of twenty-one (21) before taking office. The motion was debated at length and failed to pass. A slightly revised version of the motion is on the agenda for the Board meeting scheduled for June 6th. Given the NMRA policy announced last month requiring a parent or guardian to accompany those under the age of eighteen (18) when attending NMRA related events in person, I would support an amendment to the LSR By-laws that follows the lead of the NMRA by requiring an elected officer to have reached the age of eighteen (18).

Director-At-Large Blake Bogs reported:

I decided not to run again for Director At Large. It has been an honor to say the least to be elected and serve as Director At Large

Many groups have been converting to online Zoom meetings to stay in touch. Our local train fellowship group, had our first meeting Zoom meeting and it was a success. We added show and tell which we normally only have in November. We had a great response and I encourage every other group to incorporate it into your Zoom meetings if you aren't already doing it.

Marker Lamp – See my Director at Large article in the Marker Lamp

Clinic- South Texas Railroad Virtual Social May 2020

Director-At-Large Riley Triggs reported:

The CenTex Division's 100% NMRA club, the Austin Model Railway Society (AMRS), is continuing its mission to educate the public about railroad activities in general and specifically the history of the railroads in around Central Texas. We have been and will continue to display monthly after the coronavirus threat has passed at Lifeworks Austin, a non-profit that is a fearless advocate for youth and families seeking their path to self-sufficiency. We have several casual visitors during these events, and our plans are to provide organized opportunities for engagement with youth in their programs to learn about model and prototype railroading, and to become involve in a constructive hobby as part of their journey towards a better life.

The Austin Area Train Show will be in Taylor, Tx again the last weekend in August, and the host 100% NMRA Austin Model Railway Society's modular layout will be displayed and operated for the public. Other modular clubs participating were the Tinplate Trackers, the Texas Brick Railroad, the AusNTrak. Club and CenTex Division members also support the volunteer efforts for putting on the show, which is its third year in Taylor. There are plans to move the show to Austin's Palmer auditorium to increase attendance and vendor space.

The AMRS will be having the annual show at the Palmer Events Center in 2021, with a much expanded vendor and layout area available and a central location that should encourage a higher attendance. We will be offering family attractions along with the annual favorites.

The search for more members and a more permanent home is under way to solidify the club and its activities. The goal is for the club to be a public outreach and education component supporting the efforts of the CenTex Division and LSR. Many of the club members are active in all the activities in the area.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Duane Richardson reported:

Tom Greco – Motive Power
Rod Fredricks – Official
Marc LaChey – Official
Melvin Richards – Dispatcher
Robert Ashcraft – Volunteer
Randal Wilson – Volunteer
Peete Leach – Civil, Electrical, Scenery & MMR # 649

Pending National Approval:
Virginia Grace – Structures
Mike Mackey – Official
Gert Muller – Official

Contest Co-chair Ray Byer, Jeff Palmer reported:

Total Number of Entries in Model Contest:	29	
Total Number of Entries in Photo Content:	16	
Total Number of Entries in Arts & Crafts	11	
Grand Total Entries Entered in the 2020 Contest	56	
Total Models that Merited	30	(10 Arts & Crafts) (20 Models)

Personnel for the Contest Room

Contest Room Worker	Dan Formanek, Nathan Oxhandler, Ray Byer Jeff Palmer
Judges Model	Don Formanek, Loren Nuefild , Scott Parker Duane Richardson, Don Winn, Rod Fredricks, Don Kimmel, Lou McCleary, Jeff Palmer, Ray Byer
Judges Arts &Crafts	Cathy Ashcroft, Mrs. Freitag, Nathan Oxhandler
Judges Photo	Duane Richardson, Nathan Oxhandler
Lone Star Region Contest Judges	Jeff Palmer, Ray Byer

Model Contest Winners

Steam Locomotives: 1) Tom Greco w/ B&O Class P7-C 4-6-2 #5308

Diesel Engines: None

Traction & Other Motive Power : None

Passenger Cars: 1) Tom Greco w/ B&O ClassH-8 RPO Car

Freight Cars: 1) Lourdes McCleary w/ Orther Hopper
2) Geoffrey Hogno w/ Wire Car

Maintenance of Way: 1) Don Winn w/ G.N. Water Tank

Caboose: 1) None

On-Line Structures: 1) Scott Parker w/ Brett's Brewery
2) Lourdes McCleary w/ Tower One
3) Scott Parker w/ Goldies Locksmith

Bridges & Trestles: 1) Lourdes McCleary w/ Fink Bridge
2) Scott Parker w/ Cover Bridge

Displays / Modules: 1) Jeff Nichols w/ Nebraska Farm
2) Virginia Grace w/ Japanese Tea Garden
3) Steve Jackobs w/ Reefer Service Car

Special Contest;San Jacinto Model Club: Bob Dannenbrink Open Carload
1) Ray Byer w/ Piggy Packer
2) Brady Mc Guiae w/ Wooden Cable Reels
3) William Van Pelt w/ Compressor Load

Photography Contest Winners

Prototype-B&W Prints: 1) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-9) Cumbres & Toltec Engine #489
2) Brain Kelly w/(72-2) Intersection of Tracks
3) Brain Kelly w/(72-1) Reflections of Light

Prototype-Color Prints: 1) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-9) Wellington Cable Car
2) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-8) Durango & Silverton Engine #481
3) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-6) Rainbows at the Cambres & Toltec

Model-B&W Prints: 1) None
2)
3)

Model-Color Prints: 1) Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-2) Log Camp at the Frisco Train Museum
2) Geoffrey Hogno w/ (32-3) Rio Magginore
Liguria Italy

3) Geoffrey Hogno w/ (32-1) San Gimigliano Tuscany Italy

Model-Computer Enhanced: None

Photography Major Contest Awards

Photography Best in Show: Geoffrey Hogno w/(32-2) Log Camp at the Frisco Train Museum

Arts & Crafts Contest Winners

General:
1) Judith Neufeld w/ Under the Sea
2) Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Marmalade Jar
3) Judith Neufeld w/ Ballet Dancer

Railroadiana:
1) Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Mariborough Train Magnet
2) Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Cumbres & Toltec Magnet

Needlework: 1) Vickie Price w/ Lattice Garden

Theme:
1) Judith Neufeld w/ Sunset at Medusa Ranch
2) Judith Neufeld w/ Snow on Sunset Globe
3) Vickie Price w/ Hurst Sunset

Arts & Crafts Major Contest Awards

Arts& Crafts Youth & Teen Award: None

Most Poplar Arts & Crafts Entry: Vicki Price w/ Lattice Garden Baby Blanket

Arts & Crafts Novice Best in Show: None

Arts & Crafts Best in Show: Divina Gato-Hogno w/ Marlborough Train Magnet

Major Model Contest Awards

Participation: Scott Parker w/ 6 Entries Total Points of 661.5

Best Kit-Built Model: Scott Parker w/Slick Willies

Architecture Award: None

Tree Award: Virginia Grace w/ Japanese Tea Garden

Youth & Teen Award: None

Most Popular
Complete Train: Tom Greco w/ B&O Capital Limited

Bob Clarke Logging Award: None

Linda S. Little Award: Lou McCleary w/ Fink Bridge

Most Popular Model: Bill Kurak w/ Cameron Machine Shop

Model Novice Best in Show: Lou McCleary w/ Fink Bridge

Model Best In Show: Lou McCleary w/ Fink Bridge

Convention Chair Marc LaChey reported:

We continue to make progress toward a joint convention with the Midcontinent Region and the Lone Star Region. Tentative dates are June 16-19, 2021 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ken Ehlers from MCoR's Indian Nation Division (formerly a member of LSR's Texas Gulf Division) and Marc LaChey of the LSR Trinity River Division have volunteered to serve as Co-Chairmen for the convention. Chris Atkins, LSR Cow-catcher Division will serve as Registrar. Chuck Lind, LSR President, will arrange for Clinics. Ray Byer, LSR Texas Gulf Division along with Jeff Palmer and Duane Richardson of the Trinity River Division will be involved with the contest room. We anticipate that members of the Midcontinent region will be serving in a number of other roles in support of the joint convention. As this will be the first joint convention for the LSR and MCoR, Ken and Marc will be working on the sharing of various logistical and work assignments for the two regions.

While Ken and Marc develop the convention format, we expect the convention to feature camaraderie, clinics, a contest room, layout tours and opportunities to operate. Ken and Chuck have already had preliminary conversations and are planning as many as twenty (20) clinic for the convention. Ken has started conversations with a number of layout owners in Tulsa regarding both operating sessions and layout tours.

As of this writing, Ken and Marc are negotiating with a hotel venue in Tulsa to host the convention. More specifics will be shared once the hotel proposal has been finalized and presented to the boards of the LSR and MCoR for approval.

For now, we encourage everyone to pencil in June 16-19, 2021 on your calendar.

Education Chair, Open Chair No Report

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reported:

I am maintaining several good sources for up-coming events, although one of the better sources dropped off-line. I still have an occasional notice coming through a few days or so after I have submitted the column. Overall, I am keeping up with the known events within our Region.

Anyone having events to be published, please send me the details:
bdr149@airmail.net

A reminder to all:

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Historian Bob Barnett No Report

Membership Chair Ken Kaiser reported:

Based on the Nov. (945) to APR. (953) membership reports, LSR membership increased by 8 members. However during the same period we signed up 61 new members so our status was { +8 -61 } or and actual loss of 53 members.
In the past two months 40 members were on the 60 day delinquency list. However one member moved to another Region and two indicated they were going to renew their memberships.
Breakdown by Div. follows:

	NOV	APR	gain/loss
Div. 1	162	166	+04
Div. 2	107	102	-05
Div. 3	181	192	+11
Div. 4	137	133	-04
Div. 5	24	24	00
Div. 6	84	85	+01
Div. 7	23	24	+01
Div. 8	227	227	00
LSR	945	953	+08

Nomination Chair Pete Leach reported:

The 2020 election is over, and I am thinking about next year. I would like to see if we can get more folks running for offices. Volunteer organizations such as LSR need to attract new members to positions on the board and other departments. I will solicit ideas from the BOD and members in the months ahead. In the meantime, if you are reading this and are even a little bit interested, please reach out to me. I would be happy to discuss what is involved in the process and the position.

It has been some interesting and difficult times since the LSR convention back in February. I have been using the time during the lockdown to work on several projects in the railroad room. I've installed a new Tsunami decoder on one of my Bachmann On30 Forney steam locomotives. Electronics is not my favorite part of the hobby, but I plan to work on other projects, such as adding sound and animation to my layout. I doubt electronics will EVER be near the top of the list of favorites!

A part of the hobby I DO enjoy is building models and writing about them. I have been writing articles for the San Jac newsletter, DERAIL, for a few years. I will continue as long as I have things to build and people interested in reading about it.
I look forward to serving all of you as a one of the Directors-at-Large.

Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag No Report

Parliamentarian Ray Byer No Report

Photography Chair Michael Harang No Report

Publications Chair Riley Trigs reported:

The Marker Lamp is on schedule at the moment.

The emphasis continues to be on the regular column contributors providing a strong base of material. Donna Orr, Gert "Speed" Muller and Blake Bogs are doing a tremendous job at producing interesting, informative and educational material for our membership. There are also several good one-off articles that are starting to happen as people engage with the AP Certificate program pursuing their Author certificates.

I would like to bring focus on the rest of the chair and directors in the region who have not been submitting reports. Each position should have something to say about their activities, the hobby, or the way they are engaging with the model railroading community as an elected or appointed member in support of the LSR's mission.

Areas to address

Advertising in Pike and Dealer ads has gotten attention, and clean up is commencing. Speed has received renewals and is beating the bushes for more. There has been some interest in upgrading ads to color, and the Cowcatcher is participating.

Youth Chair Jim Lemmond No Report

Website Chair Jeff Palmer reported:
Our service provider, Host Gator, continues to provide an excellent service. Renewal for the next three years comes due 1/1/2023..

The election website www.geekwithtrains.com has served us well in the past and is being updated for the 2021 election. The site will set to open the election at 12:01 AM on the first of March and shutdown at 12:00 PM on March 30, 2021.

As to the Officer's Page, use the link at the bottom of the LSR Officer's page.

Over the past 6 months, 33 LSR emailing's have gone out, The volume will continue in support of the upcoming 2021 Convention.

Since our last meeting, an MMR page has been added to the website.

Also, The NMRA Youth "At-Risk" Policy has been added to the Constitution and By-Laws page

Normal activity continues, as the posting of reports, motions, and emailing for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Chuck Lind opened Old Business by asking the Secretary to bring up the tabled Motion from the February meeting, If you recall, see the Winter Marker Lamp for 2020, the BOD was discussing the age of governance, 18 or 21 – what age is appropriate to be elected to the board. Since that meeting, the NMRA issued their "At-Risk Persons" policy, stating that no one under the age of majority could sever in any position on the board. In fact, anyone under the age of majority must be accompanied by their parent or guardian when attending an NMRA event. At the request of the person making the motion, Donna Orr, the motion was split into two motions:

1) Motion (10) to establish and Apprentice Program
2) Motion (2) for the age required to be eligible to be an elected LSR board member.

After some discussion, Motion 10 was tabled until Motion 2 could be resolved. Motion 2 was discussed. Marc LaChey and Don Winn presented a very effective case for the age to be set at the "age of majority" (18). Both were very eloquent and through in their statement of position. This ensued a lengthy discussion period where Blake Bogs, James Knabb, Donna Orr, and others presented the case for the age to be eligible to be on the board to 21. When the vote was called, the Motion as stated, eligibility age 21, carried by an 8 to 7 vote.

The NMRA insurance policy was referenced several times during the discussion, and the question was raised about what the policy actually said. Donna Orr took the opportunity to investigate and this is what she found:

> Simply put, one instance of an abuse lawsuit by someone against the NMRA would bankrupt the NMRA and the organization would cease to exist. Statistically, based on the population at-large, we know that some of our members would abuse an at-risk person. NMRA insurance does not provide coverage for any accusations of abuse.

With Motion 2 settled, Motion 10 was brought back up for discussion. Motion 10 allows the appointment of Apprentices by the LSR President. This allows those between the ages of 18-21 who want to serve, to be appointed to positions where they would be of the greatest benefit to the LSR. During discussion, Bill Dryden pointed out some redundant verbiage and the

verbiage was changed to remove the redundancy. This motion is a By-Laws change, and the board passed this motion unanimously.

The last piece of Old Business was the Budget report for 2019-20; see Treasurer's Report above. While this discussion was to report the end of the Fascial Year, Speed included the New Budget for the 2020-21 Fascial Year:

Budget

Lone Star Region

Note: All fiscal years are from May 1st through April 30th	FY 2011-2012 Actual	FY 2012-2013 Actual	FY 2013-2014 Actual	FY 2014- 2015 Actual	FY 2015-2016 Actual	FY 2016-2017 Actual	FY 2017-2018 Actual	FY 2018-2019 Actual	FY 2019-2020 Approved	FY 2019-2020 Actual	Proposed for FY 2020-2021 Proposed	Proposed for FY 2020-2021 Approved
INCOME												
Ad, Dealer, Marker Lamp	$0.00	$20.00	$0.00	$40.00	$75.00	$0.00	$40.00	$0.00	$20.00	$0.00	$20.00	
Ad, Pike, Marker Lamp	$344.00	$152.00	$304.00	$243.00	$104.00	$104.00	$112.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00	
Conv 2011 Income, Lubbock	$985.81											
Additional 2011 payment after fiscal year	$134.27											
Conv 2011 Repay Loan, Lubbock	$1,000.00											
Conv 2012 Proceeds Gulf Coast		$3,097.07										
Conv 2013 Repay Loan, DFW			$2,000.00									
Conv 2013 Proceeds, DFW			$8,331.27									
Conv 2014 Proceeds, Round Rock				$3,855.11								
Conv 2014 Repay Loan, Round Rock				$2,000.00								
Conv 2015 Repay Loan, Beaumont					-$2,000.00							
Conv 2015 Proceeds, Beaumont					$500.00							
Conv 2016 Repay Loan, DFW					$2,888.88	$2,888.88						
Conv 2016 Proceeds, DFW						$516.88						
Conv 2017 Proceeds, Houston							$226.00					
Conv 2018 Proceeds, Round Rock								$2,465.53				
Conv 2019 Proceeds, Frisco									$1,000.00	$3,504.00		
Conv 2020 Proceeds, Houston										$1,619.00		
Conv 2021 Proceeds, No convention											$0.00	
Conv 2022 Repay Loan											$0.00	
Dues												
NMRA Rebate	$1,945.00	$1,990.00	$1,929.00	$1,919.00	$1,916.00	$1,919.00	$1,648.00	$1,780.00	$1,780.00	$1,706.00	$1,700.00	
Subscriptions												
Dues, Rebate, Subscriptions Total	$1,945.00	$1,990.00	$1,929.00	$1,919.00	$1,916.00	$1,919.00	$1,648.00	$1,780.00				
Interest Earned CD Fund	$0.45	$0.24	$3.95	$2.04	$35.40	$40.06						
Interest From Conv Fund	$3.45	$2.89	$1.92	$0.97	$26.69	$19.92						
Patches and Decals	$8.00		$8.00	$8.00	$8.00	$8.00						
MSSR Interest							$93.31					
Amazon Smile							$5.00		$5.00	$0.00	$5.00	
Transfer from Savings												
TOTAL INCOME	$4,348.98	$5,868.80	$12,650.14	$7,858.12	$1,655.06	$4,658.98	$2,324.31	$4,245.53	$2,725.00	$6,829.00	$1,775.00	$0.00

Note: All fiscal years are from May 1 through April 30	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020 Approved	FY 2019-2020 Actual	Proposed for FY 2020-2021 Proposed	Proposed for FY 2020-2021 Approved
EXPENSES												
Achievement-LSR Program	$98.95	$7.51	$227.41	$38.54	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	$50.00	
Board Meeting		$287.53	$183.94	$312.92	$0.00	$0.00	$81.39	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	$25.00	
Mid-Year Meeting Expense				$0.00	$174.85	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$50.00	$0.00	$25.00	
Contest-Convention	$430.52	$423.52	$154.49	$1,165.69	$905.04	$226.50	$582.77	$599.26	$430.00	$817.57	$100.00	
Convention, non rail			$0.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$214.69	$500.00	$500.00	$748.00	$100.00	
Conv 2012 Advance to Houston	$0.00		$0.00	$0.00								
Conv 2013 Advance to DFW	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	$0.00								
Conv 2014 Advance to RR		$500.00	$1,500.00	$0.00								
Conv 2015 Advance to Beaumont				$2,000.00	$2,000.00							
Conv 2015 Loss of Beaumont convention					$500.00							
Conv 2016 Advance to DFW				$2,000.00	$2,000.00							
Conv 2022 Advance to Tulsa Convention											$1,000.00	
Convention General Expense (2)				$0.00								
SOICS TPS Expense				$400.00								
NMRA Rebate to divisions						$954.25	$1,149.00	$890.00	$850.00	$853.00	$850.00	
Election-Expenses			$1,953.82	$1,242.21	$240.95	$57.36	$86.01	$194.32	$100.00	$0.00	$50.00	
Historian Expenses	$116.55		$38.97	$0.00	$15.16	$0.00	$38.97	$0.00	$30.00	$0.00	$50.00	
Membership		$282.48	$0.00	$00.00	$0.00	$0.00						
President Office Expenses	$133.01		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$15.00	$0.00	$15.00	
Secretary Exp. & Postage	$32.72		$45.09	$65.77	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	
Treasurer Exp. & Postage					$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$25.00	$29.05	$20.00	
Marker Lamp Print & Mail	$5,240.00	$5,120.10	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						
Sign and Print for Events								$80.00	$25.00	$0.00	$50.00	
Audio/visual					$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,588.77	$50.00	$0.00	$50.00	
Memorial Dedications	$99.36	$150.00	$0.00	$47.00	$0.00	$0.00	$75.00	$200.00	$50.00	$0.00	$50.00	
Web Site	$59.60	$59.50	$59.50	$0.00	$0.00	$269.60	$50.52	$50.52	$110.00	$396.14	$100.00	
Bank Costs							$20.00	$21.00	$30.00	$0.00	$40.00	
Youth Program	$140.00	$32.00	$28.00	$0.00	$32.00	$0.00	$221.00	$360.00	$360.00	$120.00	$200.00	
Youth Chairman				$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	$7,354.81	$7,710.72	$4,171.22	$7,364.13	$6,367.63	$1,609.71	$2,525.35	$4,481.89	$2,725.00	$3,155.76	$2,775.00	
NET (INCOME-EXPENSES)	-$3,005.83	-$1,841.92	$8,478.92	$493.99	-$4,712.77	$3,049.27	-$201.04	-$236.36	$0.00	$3,673.24	-$1,000.00	$0.00
Prepared by Speed Muller, Treasurer 2017-2021												

The motion for the new budget, Motion 5 was made by Gert Muller, 2nd by Mike Mackey, discussed and unanimously approved.

This brought to an end, Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

The first order of new business in the installation of New Officers by Chuck Lind. Motion 3 contained the following elected officers:

Ray Byer – LSR Vice President
Jeff Palmer – LSR Secretary

Ken Mason - Division 2 Director
Bob Thiele - Division 4 Director
Don Winn - Division 6 Director
Phil Stewart - Division 8 Director
Marc LaChey – Director At-Large
Pete Leach - Director At-Large
Darrell Cowles - Director At-Large

Chuck welcomed the new officers and thanked the departing officers for their service. Motion 3 was made by Pete Leach, 2nd by Jeff Palmer, no discussion ensued and the motion was ratified unanimously.

Moving on to the Audit Report, Motion 4, Chuck explained that an audit of the LSR accounting records is done annually and this year's audit was done by Donna Orr, and Marc LaChey. No issues were uncovered and all was in order, Gert Muller made he motion to accept the audit committee's findings. 2nd by Marc LaChey. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Since things happened a little out of order, Motion 6, need to be considered. This motion is to allow the Treasurer to establish a PayPal account. This would allow future LSR conventions to register and make refunds electronically. The motions was made Gert Muller and 2nd by Darrell Cowles.The discussion center around PayPal fees. It was determined that at the present time, PayPal does not charge a transaction fee for 501(c)(3)'s. The motion passed unanimously.

NMRA Youth Policy has been the heart of the many discussions since its introduction at the end of March. Chuck Lind discussed the imperative need to comply with this policy. He emphasized the need for a parent or guardian to be present with the youth at all NMRA sponsored events. Contributions by Steve Barkley and Boyd Patterson re-emphasized the points made. Motion 7 is a change to the LSR By-Laws including and hi-lighting the NMRA "At-Risk" Policy. This was a rewrite of Article VI. The motion was made by Marc LaChey, 2nd Jeff Palmer. Discussion was energetic but brief. The motion passed unanimously.

The Nomination Chair, Pete Leach, to help with policy compliance has requested a Nomination Form change to include age information – Motion 8. The motion was made by Pete Leach, 2nd by Jeff Palmer. No real discussion ensued. Motion passed.

The LSR BOD has been dealing with a number of significant issues of late. At times, discussion are cut short in the name of expediency. To address this issue Ray Byer introduced Motion 9 via Donna Orr. Ray was proposing a bi-monthly (every 2 months) Zoom meeting to discussion some of these topics. In the ensuing discussion it was decided to table this motion until the next board meeting.

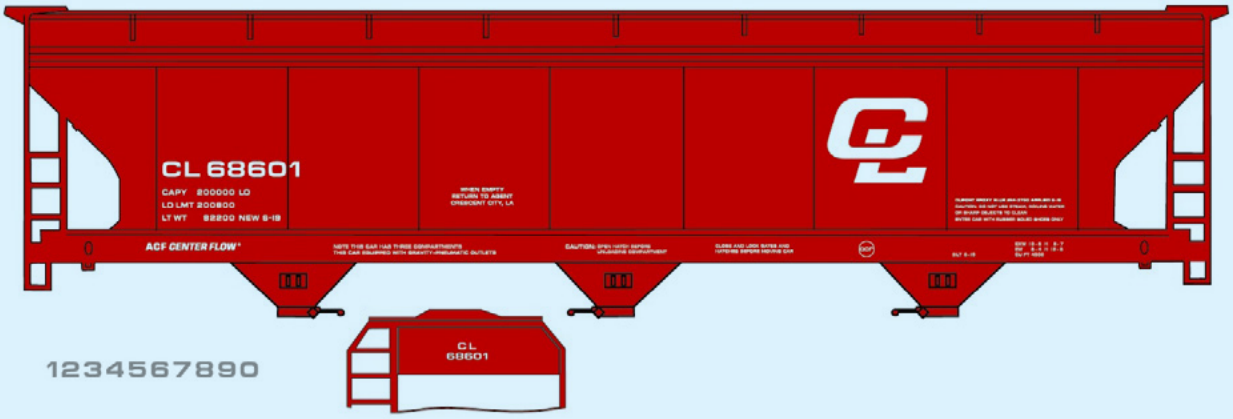
Bob Barnett presented the final report for the February LSR convention in Houston. It was a profitable convention and well received. Thank you Bob!

Marc LaChey presented the current status of the 2021 Tulsa Convention June 16-19, 2021. He noted the progress being made in the hotel selection, contest room, and layout tours. During this discussion, a motion was presented to the board to get start-up funds to establish a bank account; Motion 11. Marc made the motion, 2nd by Jeff Palmer. Lively discussion ensued. Motion passed.

Bob Thiele presented his initial concepts for the 2022 LSR Convention. Initial site for the convention is Temple, Texas. At the present time, no date has been established. Local railroading resources are being researched, as well as sites and activities for Non-Rail. Initial hi-lights look promising.

Mike Mackey presented the current status of the 2023 National Convention (see Division 1 Report). Mike spoke of the continuing frustrations of dealing with the NMRA. With the cancellation of the 2020 National Convention and with England pulling out of the 2022 Convention, we are waiting to see the effect of these changes on future National Conventions,

With Mike conclusion, Chuck motioned for the conclusion of the BOD meeting. 2nd by Jeff Palmer. No discussion. Motion passed and the meeting concluded at 3:53 PM.



CCMRC ACF Covered Hopper Club Car Order Form

The Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana is offering this Accurail Crescent Lines ACF Center Flow 3 bay covered hopper in HO Scale. It is available for a donation of $30.00 for each car, plus $6.00 shipping for the first car and $2.00 for each additional car ordered. It is available in 1 road number, but additional number decals will be available for $4.00 per set.

To order your car or cars, please send your payment made out to CCMRC for the correct amount to:

Crescent City Model Railroad Club

601 N. Lester Ave

Metairie, LA 70003-6131

Quantity: _____ X $30.00 each

Total for cars: $ _____

Shipping: $6.00

Additional Shipping per car $2.00 ea. $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Thank You for supporting the Crescent City Model Railroad Club

CRESCENT LINES

By Jim Lemmond
jimlem@comcast.net

LSR Youth Award 2021

Tulsa Convention
June 17 – 20, 2021

At the present time, plans for the next LSR Convention are being developed to present a combined convention with the Mid-Continent Region and the Lone Star Region. With this new format and the coronavirus plans for the awarding the LSR Youth Awards must be changed. Outlined below are the tentative plans for 2021.

Youth Award Changes for 2021:

- Nominated youth will receive their award in their home divisions.
- No youth awards will be presented at the convention in 2021.
- The LSR Youth Awards will be announced at the convention Banquet.
- It is hoped that the LSR will be able to resume its usual award format in 2022.
- Please see the notice in this *Marker Lamp* about 2021 Youth Award nominations and due dates.

Director Reports

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Mike Mackey, MMR
director@cowcatcherdivision.org
cowcatcherdivision.com

Division 1 continues to work through our "new normal" with monthly online meetings via Zoom. Our meetings are held at 10:00am on the second Saturday of each month and usually last about 2 ½ hours. We've literally had members from around the world and across the US join us. We've also extended monthly invitations to members from Division 5 to join us and typically we have about 50% of that division log in. All in all we have somewhere shy of 50 attend each meeting and I expect to see that number gradually increase. If you would like to join us just drop me an email to director@cowcatcherdivision.org and I'll see to it that you are added to our division communication list. We have room for 100 on our meeting so it will be first come, first served.

Our region has been instrumental in the growth of the NMRAx virtual platform. This has probably been one of the most significant and positive initiatives put forth by the organization in decades. I know of clinics that have been delivered by members from D1, D2, D3, D4, D6 and D8. Our own "Speed" Mueller has consistently been working in front of the camera as a moderator, and behind the camera as a scheduler and facilitator from "The Bottom of the Helix" which is his "broadcast central." A big thanks to Speed for his contribution to the worldwide organization.

2023 Convention Update

In case you hadn't heard, the 2022 convention in Birmingham, England was canceled due to a location scheduling issue centering on the domino effect of the postponement of the 2020 Olympics, conflicting with the Commonwealth Games, conflicting with the NMRA 2022 Convention. It was just announced that since the 2020 convention in St. Louis was scrubbed due to Covid-19, the NMRA will host the 2022 convention in St. Louis. Based in my background investigation, I don't see where this will have too much effect on our attendance in 2023.

We have so much to offer in a location that has never been on a worldwide stage, from a model railroading stand point, that we will have a winner that is already creating buzz globally. Take my word for it, it will be great!

Until next time…Keep training!

Bayou Division 2

by Ken Mason
series9parts@cox.net
504-722-6610

Well of course there is not a whole lot to report over the last few months with live, in person events not being held. The CCMRC in New Orleans had been having Friday night Zoom meetings during the heart of the pandemic. Once the local authorities gave permission to start meeting in small groups again, some members began going back to the club on Friday nights. Others continue to go at odd times to run trains or work on individual projects as well. Some scenery has been added to the Port Area of the Crescent Lines. Maureen Mason did a good job painting the river backdrop in the port.

And work and scenery continue to be added to the Natchez Industrial District as well.

I've heard some similar work has been going on at Mid-South in Baton Rouge by way of posts on Facebook. Division 2 also participated in a multi-divisional Zoom meeting hosted by MMR Pete Steinmetz and Trinity River Division member James Knabb. Besides two video layout tours, we also had clinics presented by Joe Fugate, Publisher of Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine and MMR John Lowrance.

Division 2 was also invited to attend the Division 3 monthly Zoom meeting. For me it was a very educational and fun time. I learned that some judging for AP certificates can now be handled remotely and now thanks to Duane Richardson and Mike Mackey I have now qualified for my Scenery AP Certificate. I have 3 more in the works that could happen in the next year or so. Now I need to get busy building things! I was also lucky to be asked to host one of the three live streams for the Southeastern Region SERx virtual convention On July 25th. Thanks to Gordy Robinson and Speed for asking me and helping.

With a little luck, perhaps some more normal time could resume soon.

North East Texas Division 3

by Donna Orr
donnalorrtx@gmail.com
972-342-8598

CenTex Division 4

by Bob Thiele
director@centexnmra.org
CenTexNMRA.org

In May we continued our virtual meetings and had two clinic presentations

Joe Fugate (Publisher - Model Railroad Hobbyist) presented a clinic on "Painting in a post-Floquil world," which included getting weaning off Floquil / PolyScale and mapping the familiar colors to other model paints. It also included tips and tricks for airbrushing, brush painting, washes, and storing paints to last longer.

Then Dale Kreutzer (MMR #588) delivered a clinic on: The Porter Coal Mine at Hesperus. His presentation on moving from a mock-up to a completed coal mine scene. An important, but neglected, part of the layout finally gets finished. Follow along as Dale takes you through the process on how he completed the project.

In June John Feraca gave a presentation on expanding his Stone Canyon RR by adding a lumber branch line. The clinic was a Power Point presentation starting with a brief history ot eh SCRR flowed by a detailed description of the lumber branch line addition which included the planning, CAD layout design, bench work, track work, scratch built structies, backdrop painting, scenery and operations. Our second presentation in June was by Jack Dziadul from the Carolina Piedmont Division of the mid-Eastern Region. Jack is also the owner of Ipswich Hobbies. His Presentation included the following: Suggested tools, Taking inventory of parts, Construction sequence, Painting and weathering, Dealing with mistakes, Setting the scene, The business of craftsman kit manufacturing, and Resources for additional information..

In July we had a clinic on lighting, by John Niemeyer, moderator of the Scale Lighting Forum. John's work has been in the HOn3 Annual, he has taught clinics locally, regionally as well as at the National Narrow Gauge Conventions.

Then we had a virtual layout tour of the Texas Northern Model Railroad Club by Thomas Stephens. And a virtual tour of Ken Towery's layout. Also Chuck Fink is going to demonstrate the use of his Weight Calculator. As cars being weighted properly for good tracking is a passion for him. Jerry Hoverson is going to give us an update of his layout.

It looks like we will be continuing the virtual meetings for a while longer. The Division meetings along with the NMRAx clinics seems to be giving us a lot of options for learning and working on our layouts.

Division 4 has had to make some major adjustments when it comes to getting together. The world of virtual meeting with Zoom has at least open the door to visiting from a distance, but we are getting together. Since May the Division has participated in many virtual meetings. There are some of the highlights.

Division meeting on June 6th

A Power Point presentation was given on making realistic Cedar and Live Oak trees using the Woodland Scenic super tree kit. An article in Model Railroad Craftsman was the inspiration for the clinic. Bob Batson gave a presentation on the layout inside the Hearne passenger station. Looking forward to having a virtual tour of the station and the history that goes with it. Many members shared pictures of their stay at home projects. The Division participated in a South Texas Railroad virtual social on May 23rd. This is a group that gathers numerous times during the year in San Antonio. They give clinics, share modeling techniques and present projects that they are working on. It was an interesting and enjoyable time with members from the south.

In early June the Division was invited to join a multi divisional meeting with Divisions from around the country. We had some wonderful clinics and layout tour. The best part was that we were able to converse with NMRA member from around the country. Normally, this happens only when you attend the National convention. There was a lot of information giving out, great ideas and techniques in modeling and just fun to be introduce to new people.

The Austin Model Railroad Society, an all NMRA group, conducted a virtual group meeting since they are unable to gather together. After taking care of business they discussed the next phase of construction on their module system. They plan to reconstruct downtown Austin railroading in the late Fifties and early Sixties. Maps, documents and plenty of photos have been gather to reproduce a fairly accurate representation of downtown Austin and its railroad connections.

Division meeting of July 11th

I want to thank Tom Pierpoint for his presentation on the LA Port modules layout and the benefits of such a system. I am looking forward to the time that we can visit the layout and see some of the workmanship that went into it. Once again Mike Barrett came through and gave two excellent clinics. The coal mining in Bastrop county was interesting and

the structure he built was great. Working with double crossovers clinic was for me, a new way of thinking about how to set them up. If you have ever tried to install and make them function properly, it is a real challenge. His method simplifies the thought process and speeds up the installation. Pictures from Wayne Jones and Jerry showed the work they have accomplished on their layouts.

There is an another Multi Divisional Zoom meeting schedule for August 15th. This time a group from Canada will be joining us. I eagerly await this meeting.

The next Division 4 meeting will be schedule for September 12th at 10:00.

Modeling by Wayne Jones

Modeling by Wayne Jones

Modeling by Wayne Jones

Modeling by Jerry Wilson, MMR

Division 6

by Don Winn
donnswinn@gmail.com
940.391.0950

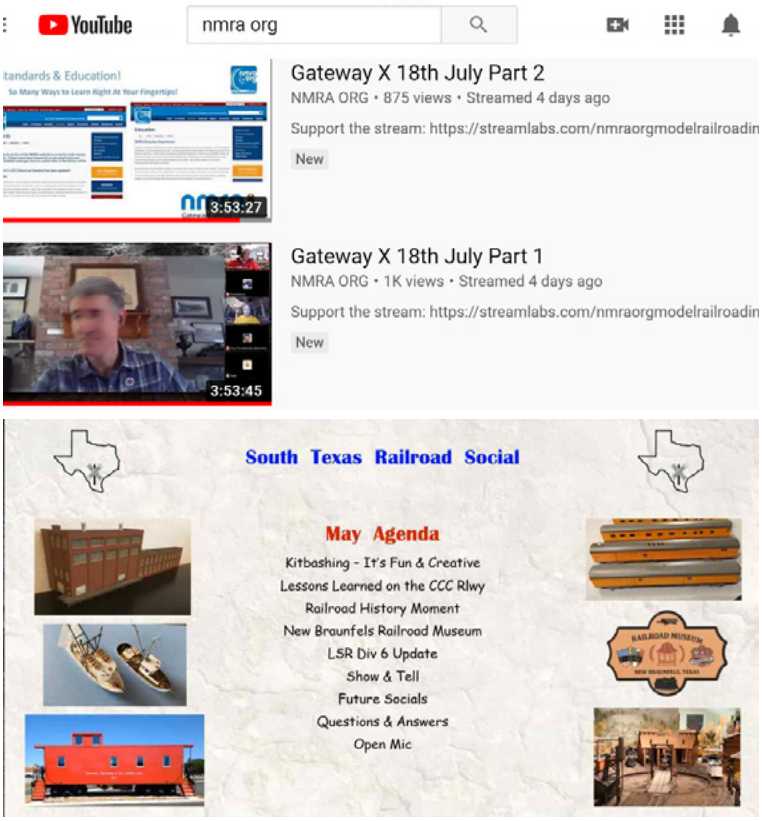
As I write this, Hurricane Hannah has just made landfall. I hope that all of you in its path were hunkered down and staying safe. It looks like all we're going to get in San Antonio is some much needed rain (and lower temperatures). To the best of my knowledge, there are no train shows or other model railroading events scheduled in our area for the foreseeable future due to COVID. The SAMRA club has been closed to all visitors and ops sessions, although a few members have been going in to work on projects on the layout. The Texas Transportation Museum, is closed as well, which has impacted the AMRE club. I did get word that SanTrax has had some limited access to the museum to work on moving their layout to the museum.

One thing I just learned recently is that the Corpus Christi Model Railroad Club had to permanently close their doors after the damage to the building from Hurricane Harvey. Hopefully, they may be able to rebuild somewhere in the future.

Like a number of you, I was disappointed that the NMRA national convention in St. Louis in July had to be cancelled, but I was really surprised and pleased at how the NMRA turned that lemon into some tasty lemonade. The NMRA-X virtual convention was a tremendous hit. Seven days of clinics – 12 hours per day broadcast on both FaceBook and YouTube! They even had a virtual banquet. I tuned in to at least 20 hours of the programming, and have gone back afterwards to view 2 more clinics that I had missed.

If you weren't able to watch the convention live, you can catch up on any or all of the 84 hours on YouTube. Search for "NMRA ORG" and look at the Gateway X videos. The clinics are listed by the date of the month (like 18th in the example below), and divided into (3) 4-hour sections per day. They were not edited, so you may see some filler slides and ads if a clinic did not fill its allocated hour time slot. The timetable for each day is usually included in the filler. Check it out. Many thanks to Gordy, LSR's own Speed-at-the-bottom-of-the-helix, and everyone else who spent the many hours to host this great event.

We had the good luck of holding our LSR regional convention for the year back in February. Most of the regions around the country weren't so lucky, but have been holding their conventions using the virtual format. You can find links to some of these virtual conventions on the NMRA website. Within the LSR, a number of divisions have changed their regular meetings to virtual. I've been able to attend virtual meetings from divisions 1, 3, 4 and 8 over the past few months. Lots of good clinics out there. Sure, there are plenty of videos out on the web, but somehow seeing a live program and re-connecting with people I know helps to deal with the "cabin fever".



Here in our area, the South Texas Railroad Socials continue with a virtual program. While the frequency of the in-person socials was quarterly, the virtual sessions have picked up that pace to almost monthly, with 3 virtual socials in April, May and July. Attendance is staying strong around 40 participants. Thanks to Frolin and Tom for organizing and hosting the socials. For more information, go to southtexasrr.com. There is a link there where you can request being added to their distribution list to get invited to future socials. They are always looking for folks who would like to share what they are doing in either a 15-minute mini-clinic or a 3-minute Show-N-Tell.

Of course, one positive benefit of the COVID distancing is that we are spending a lot more time at home and have more opportunities to get some modelling projects completed. I've been working on my layout on a number of

Modeling Railroad Water Tanks
by Al Boos

A review of constructing a couple different water tanks, wood and steel. Al will talk about some technics and some steps he uses to build various water tanks for his railroad.

Double Deck Backdrops by Roy Kaiser

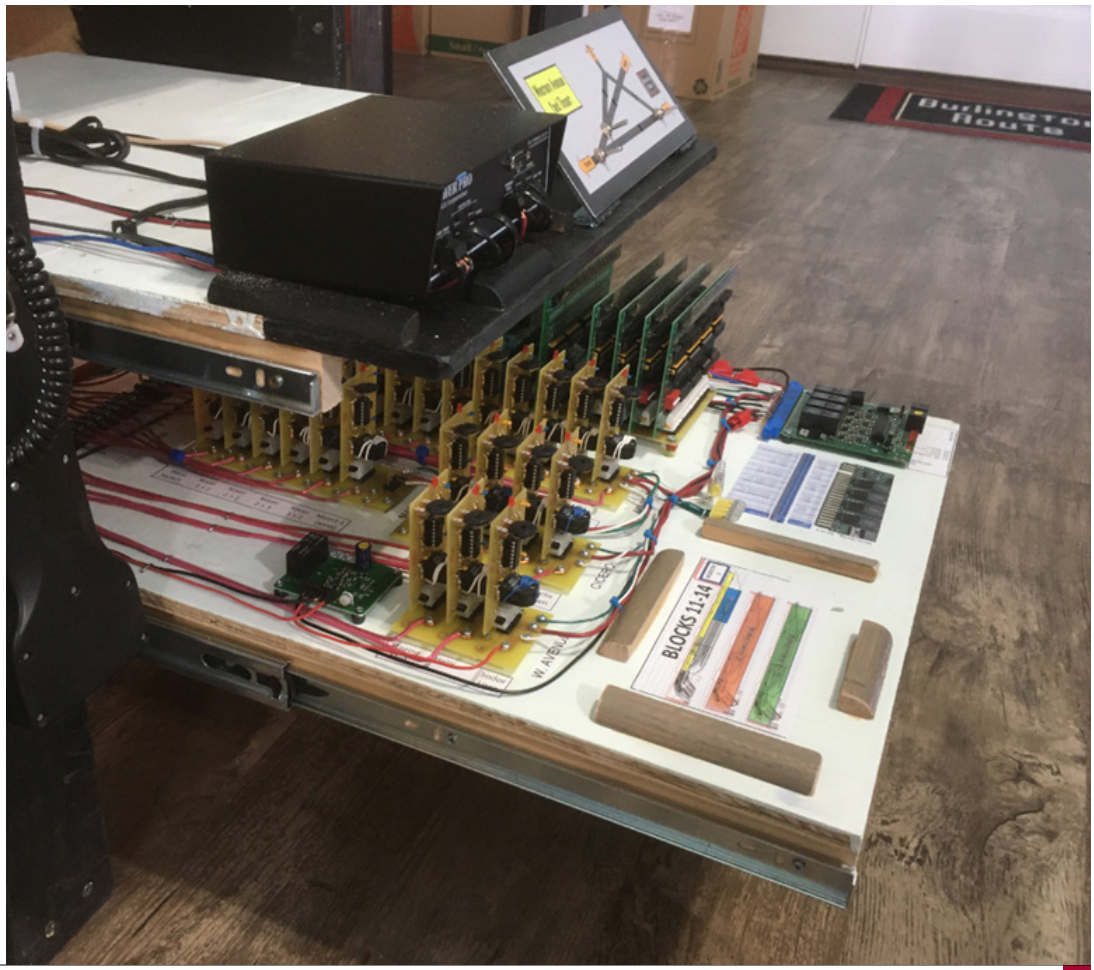
Working on his HO layout, Roy has started on backdrops. Since his layout is a double-deck design, this means backdrops on two levels. Roy will go over how he is installing these.

projects. I built some drawers to hold my electronics (DCC command station, power supply, circuit breakers, reversing modules and C/MRI components), making it much easier to maintain and diagnose problems. I have also been finishing up a number of structures.

Getting ready for operations again someday, I've been going through my fleet of rolling stock to tune them up to NMRA standards – adding weight and Kadee couplers as needed. Some cars are not making the cut (what was I thinking when I bought THAT car?) and have moved to the For Sale box. I find car tune-ups are a good activity at the end of the day when I want to sit down and watch TV or watch virtual meetings.

As always, if there is anything we can do to help you in your modeling, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe out there.



At-Large

By Pete Leach, MMR
pleachtx55@gmail.com

This is my first report as a Director at Large for the LSR. Joining the board has been an interesting experience so far. I look forward to working with the rest of the Board members in the future.

These are interesting times. The COVID pandemic has made us all look at things differently, including our hobby. No more conventions, in-person meetings, or get togethers. Attending virtual meetings has become our way to keep in touch.

As many of you know I am building a layout based on a Maine 2-Foot prototype, the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway. There are very few Maine 2-Foot enthusiasts in the Lonestar Region, but I have met many fans scattered around the globe.

Watching TV one evening, it occurred to me that a Virtual Layout Tour could be done Live. Unlike a pre-recorded video, a Live tour could include real-time interaction, just like an in-person tour.

I sent email invitations to about 2 dozen Maine Two-Foot modelers I've met or corresponded with over the years asking if they would be interested in attending a live on-line event. The reaction was fantastic. I had about a dozen folks join me on a recent Saturday afternoon in July. They came from across the country and across the pond (England.)

I used the ZOOM app to connect everyone. I also used my iPhone camera and shared my screen with everyone. I walked around the layout room, showing scenes and discussing techniques and a little background. Folks would ask

questions and make comments (all were positive!) The session lasted about an hour and included some socializing. Most of the folks knew each other while others just met for the first time that day. Everyone had a great time. I am planning an encore of my tour to folks that I didn't invite to the first event, or those who couldn't make it. I used an old Yahoo group to reach out to other Maine 2-Footers. We are planning to include some Show-and-Tell at the event.

One of the attendees to my event, Sandy River modeler Al Churella (MMR), volunteered to hold a similar event. He used a different medium but was able to give about 20 of us a great tour of his double deck On2 layout located in suburban Atlanta. Al and I have already gotten feedback from 2 or 3 folks indicating their interest in holding a similar event.

These virtual get togethers won't replace the in-person conventions, clinics, or layout tours but they sure can increase the number of people involved. It can work locally or globally. In the end, people who may never get a chance to visit Al's or my layout in person we able to view and interact. I think this type activity will continue well past the pandemic!

On another note, I have launched a new series of articles in the San Jan newsletter, DERAIL. It is called Back to the Bench and focuses on various projects and techniques. Enjoy if you read.

Nominations

By Pete Leach, MMR
pleachtx55@gmail.com

Elections for 2020 are behind us. Thanks to everyone who ran for office AND who voted! We need more folks willing to run and hold office. We'll work on low voter turnout later. We have the following positions up for election in 2021. If you are an incumbent and intend to run for reelection, great.

If you don't want to run again, we appreciate your service! Either way, please let me know.

President – (Chuck Lind has reached his term limit)
Treasurer
Division 1 Director
Division 3 Director
Division 5 Director
Division 7 Director

I would ask the above Division Presidents and Directors to start canvassing their respective divisions for folks interested in running for office. The latest Nomination form is available on the LSR website.

https://lonestarregion.com/sites/default/files/documents/constitution/lsr_nominee_information.pdf

Note that nominees must be 21 years of age to hold office. Anyone interested in running or have questions, please contact me at pleachtx55@gmail.com.

No reports submitted

Division 5
by Dave Lamberts
DavidWL1944@aol.com
806.792.7244

Division 7
by Don Kimmell
elf4kcs@mac.com
318.798.7718

Texas Gulf Division 8
by Phil Stewart
pstewart1225@yahoo.com

Convention

By Marc LaChey
bu1977@att.net

We continue to make progress toward a joint convention with the Midcontinent Region and the Lone Star Region. Tentative dates are June 16-19, 2021 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ken Ehlers from MCoR's Indian Nation Division (formerly a member of LSR's Texas Gulf Division) and Marc LaChey of the LSR Trinity River Division have volunteered to serve as Co-Chairmen for the convention. Chris Atkins, LSR Cowcatcher Division will serve as Registrar. Chuck Lind, LSR President, will arrange for Clinics. Ray Byer, LSR Texas Gulf Division along with Jeff Palmer and Duane Richardson of the Trinity River Division will be involved with the contest room.

We anticipate that members of the Midcontinent region will be serving in a number of other roles in support of the joint convention. As this will be the first joint convention for the LSR and MCoR, Ken and Marc will be working on the sharing of various logistical and work assignments for the two regions.

While Ken and Marc develop the convention format, we expect the convention to feature camaraderie, clinics, a contest room, layout tours and opportunities to operate. Ken and Chuck have already had preliminary conversations and are planning as many as twenty (20) clinic for the convention. Ken has started conversations with a number of layout owners in Tulsa regarding both operating sessions and layout tours.

As of this writing, Ken and Marc are negotiating with a hotel venue in Tulsa to host the convention. More specifics will be shared once the hotel proposal has been finalized and presented to the boards of the LSR and MCoR for approval.

For now, we encourage everyone to pencil in June 16-19, 2021 on your calendar.

Treasurer Report

by Speed Muller, Treasurer
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com
469-345-0022

As expected, a little slow start this financial year! We received lots of Pike and Dealer Ad money, thank you! We opened a checking account for the Tulsa Convention June 2021, and made a $1,000 advance to help them get started. You'll notice the purple numbers below have more information than usual, that is only to show you how we reconcile the numbers to match up with what is actually in the bank, enjoy!

The help out on the educational side of things, you might have noticed me at the bottom of the Helix during the NMRAx events we hosted. Free to everyone in the world, we have now provided almost 145 virtual clinics online (search YouTube for "NMRA ORG" or "NMRAx") and then also streamed 45 more clinics helping the SER out with their virtual convention at the end of July.

So, if you have anything to share for either 20 or 45 minutes and are willing to answer a few questions from the public afterwards, I would highly encourage you to get in touch with me, or anyone at NMRAx (nmrax@nmra.org), we need more clinics and have no intention stopping! Keep an eye on the NMRA Calendar (https://nmra.org/calendar) and you'll see NMRAx will be back in September on the 26th.

First Quarter, 2020/2021:

Beginning Balances (2020/05/01)	
LSR Unrestricted Accounts	$42,350.93
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,350.93**
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$ 528.86
Division 5 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	$ 122.50
Delattre Fund	$ 660.00
Bank Saldo	**$43,662.29**
Proceeds	
Dealer Ads	$ 40.00
Pike Ads	$ 96.00
Total Proceeds	**$ 136.00**
Disbursements	
Advance to 2021 Tulsa Convention	$ 1000.00
Total Disbursements	**$ 1,000.00**
Net Proceeds - Disbursements	**$ -864.00**
Ending Balances (2020/07/31)	
Tulsa Advance	$ 1,000.00
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	$41,486.93
Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,486.93**
Bob Clarke Award	$ 528.86
Division 5 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	$ 122.50
Delattre Fund	$ 660.00
Future Advances due	**$ -1000.00**
Bank Saldo in books	**$42,798.29**
Outstanding checks	72.00
Bank Saldo at bank	**$42,870.29** *(confirmed!)*

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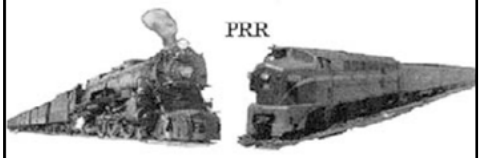

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We are empty without you

Next deadline for submissions is October 15

The Marker Lamp

submittals and inquiries | rileytriggs@gmail.com